April 28, 2025 • $4.95

The New American

www.TheNewAmerican.com

VIETNAM
50 YEARS LATER

THE TRAGEDY OF SOUTHEAST ASIA
R.D. Patrick Mahoney

VIETNAM'S GODLY GRUNT
Rebecca Terrell

OKC BOMBING 30 YEARS LATER
Paul Dragu

THE NEW AMERICAN
ISS 8 APR 28 2025 $4.95US&CAN
17>
7 25274 16223 9

FEATURED PRODUCTS

Background to Betrayal: The Tragedy of Vietnam — BOOK

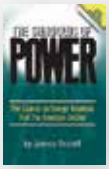
By Hilaire du Berrier

In *Background to Betrayal,* Hilaire du Berrier exposes how U.S. insiders paved the way for the Communist conquest of Southeast Asia. As an eyewitness to the betrayal of our allies in Vietnam, du Berrier reveals how State Department globalists sabotaged anti-Communist efforts — and why thousands of American lives were lost because of it. See our review on page 39. (2025ed, 380pp, pb, 1/$14.99ea; 2+/$12.99ea) **BKBTB**

New Lies for Old — BOOK

By Anatoliy Golitsyn

Soviet defector Anatoliy Golitsyn foretold future communist plans to become an even more potent force, including the fall of the Iron Curtain, the "cooperation" with the West, and much more. (1990ed, 412pp, pb, $14.95ea) **BKNLFO**



The Shadows of Power — BOOK

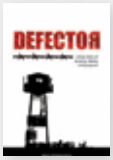
By James Perloff

Author James Perloff exposes the subversive roots and global designs of the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR). Passed off as a think tank, this group is the "power behind the throne," with hundreds of top government officials drawn from its ranks. The book traces CFR activity from the Wilson administration to the Reagan administration. (2015ed, 273pp, pb, 1-9/$9.95ea; 10-24/$8.00ea; 25-49/$7.00ea; 50+/$6.00ea) **BKSOP**

The Wall Street Trilogy: A History — BOOK

By Anthony C. Sutton

In this trilogy, Professor Anthony C. Sutton presents extensive research tracing the support and financial backing of world-changing events by Wall Street, including the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, Franklin Delano Roosevelt's presidency, Hitler's rise to power, World War II, and the beginnings of corporate socialism. (2018, pb, 528pp, $21.95ea) **BKWST**



Defector: A True Story of Tyranny, Liberty, and Purpose — BOOK

By Mark Hobafcovich with Paul Dragu

When Mark Hobafcovich finally escaped the tyranny of communist Romania, the political freedoms he found opened the door to unimaginable spiritual freedom. Now he shares his captivating journey from defector to disciple — a call to action for those living in the light of liberty. (2021ed, pb, 168pp, $2.00ea) **BKD**

Deep State: The Invisible Government Behind the Scenes — BOOK

by Alex Newman

By exposing different elements of the "Deep State," Alex Newman connects the dots to explain how it operates and what YOU can do about it. (2020ed, 217pp, pb, 1-9/$4.95ea; 10-47/$3.50ea; 48+/$3.00ea) **BKDS**

In the Shadows of the Deep State — BOOK

By Arthur R. Thompson

In the Shadows of the Deep State exposes the Deep State (aka the Swamp or the Establishment), its key players, its agenda, and how it can be stopped. Fourth printing. Bonus: Includes 2019 CFR list and one new addendum. (2021ed, 380pp, pb, 1-9/$4.00ea; 10+/$3.00ea) **BKISODS21**

The Communist Manifesto — BOOK

By Karl Marx

The basic historical document by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels sets forth the principles of communism that still haunt the world today, though not always under the name "communism." (2009ed, 60pp, pb, 1-9/$1.50ea; 10+/$1.00ea) **BKCM**

The Federalist & How to Read the Federalist — BOOK

The Federalist by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, & John Jay; How to Read the Federalist by Holmes Alexander

The Federalist is a powerful tool for educating others about the Constitution — and, ultimately, getting them to take action and defend it. *How to Read the Federalist* is a must-read introduction to *The Federalist*, but it also demonstrates the continuing relevance of the principles that guided the Founders in creating the Constitution to the modern challenges of the Deep State that we continue to face today. (2023, 454 pp + 72 pp)

Paper back set (1/$37.99ea; 2+/$34.99ea) **SETBKTFPB**

Hard back set (1/$64.99ea; 2+/$59.99) **SETBKTFHB**

How the Communist Manifesto Threatens Our Freedom Today — BOOK

by Arthur R. Thompson

This book explains how *The Communist Manifesto* threatens our freedom today. The *Manifesto* still serves as the basis for communism around the world. (2024ed, pb, 84pp, 1/$7.99ea; 2-4/$5.99ea; 5+/$4.99ea) **BKHCMTFTPB**

Go to ShopJBS.org or call 1-800-342-6491 to order!

250428

CONFER plastics inc.

Made in the USA for Over 50 Years — MADE IN THE USA

MOLDING THE AMERICAN DREAM

Since 1973, Confer Plastics has proudly manufactured in the USA. More than 150 people work at our factory near Niagara Falls, New York where they operate some of the largest blow molding machines in the world, making a wide variety of Confer-branded and custom plastic products.

CUSTOM BLOW MOLDING

Confer Plastics has helped countless inventors and entrepreneurs achieve their American Dream by allowing them to transform their ideas into reality. To learn more about what we can do for your business, visit our website at **ConferPlastics.com** and check out the capabilities and sample gallery pages.

CONFER PRODUCTS

We make a wide array of consumer products with an emphasis on outdoor leisure and backyard living. Your purchase of Confer-branded goods has a huge impact on the US economy: All of these items are made in our factory in New York State using raw materials, components, cartons, and more that are also made in the USA.

Confer Plastics Headquarters
97 Witmer Road
North Tonawanda, NY
14120-2421

Patio Furniture

Our Leisure Accents patio furniture is easy to assemble and maintain and it is made to withstand the test of time. Our tables, chairs, and benches are available in a variety of color mixes and styles to accommodate your needs and match the setting. You can buy these popular sets from our online store **LeisureAccents.com**

Snow Sleds

You may have grown up with this sled we now call the Retro Racer. It created many memories for Baby Boomers and Generation X. We made many of these toboggans in the 1970s until that customer went out of business in 1979. Through the years, we received many inquiries about the sled, so we brought it back to life in 2023 as part of our 50th anniversary celebration. Now, like a time machine, memories like those you have can be made again with your kids and grandkids. Shop our website **TheRetroRacer.com**

The Flexible Funnel

In the 1970s, Doug Confer invented the ubiquitous flexible funnel, found in garages, barns, and auto shops all around the world. We had no choice but to cease production in 1989 once the patent expired because the market was flooded by cheap imports. We kept the mold all these years and recently got back into the funnel business thanks to consumer direct sales giving us the ability to compete against foreign competition. You can buy our funnel -- the original and the best! -- online at **ConferFunnels.com**

Pool & Spa Products

We are well known in the pool and spa industry for offering a complete line of steps, ladders, and other entry systems for getting in and out of swimming pools and hot tubs. We are the industry leader, the go-to brand, for innovations in design, quality, attractiveness, and safety. You can find these products at your local pool & spa dealer or online at a variety of e-retailers. Information about the various models can be found at **ConferPlastics.com**

COSEQUIN®

JOINT HEALTH SUPPLEMENT

Support your pet's joint health for the moments that matter!
Cosequin® has a variety of formulas to help support your pet's healthy joints and cartilage.

VISIT WWW.COSEQUIN.COM

#1 VETERINARIAN RECOMMENDED SUPPLEMENT COMPANY*

*Source: Survey conducted among small animal veterinarians who recommended animal supplements.

*Source: Among retail brands. Survey conducted among small animal veterinarians who recommended oral joint health supplements.

nutramax® LABORATORIES
VETERINARY SCIENCES, INC.

Scan here to view Nutramax's full vet product line

010.1503.00

The New American
Vol. 41, No. 8 April 28, 2025

Cover Story

WORLD

6 Americans Are Still Paying for the Vietnam War
by R. Cort Kirkwood — American POWs left behind in Vietnam died there, and now Vietnam collects U.S. foreign and military aid.

HISTORY

13 The Tragedy of Southeast Asia
by R.D. Patrick Mahoney — A Vietnam veteran looks back at the war we should have won.

25 The John Birch Society on Vietnam
by Robert Welch — Cut and run? Continue the status quo? The JBS advocated a third alternative during the war years, while calling for a complete cessation of aid to "our Communist enemies."

Features

OKC BOMBING

29 The OKC Bombing Coverup, 30 Years Later
by Paul Dragu — Despite the long-held official narrative, the evidence shows that multiple John Does carried out the terror attack using multiple bombs, and that the government had prior knowledge.

GOD, FAMILY, COUNTRY

34 Vietnam's Godly Grunt
by Rebecca Terrell

THE REVIEW

39 *Background to Betrayal: The Tragedy of Vietnam* by Hilaire du Berrier

Departments

5 From the Editor
27 QuickQuotes
37 2A For Today
44 The Last Word

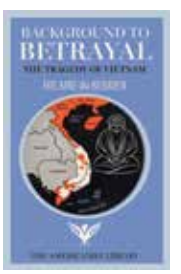
Midjourney

The New American

AP Images

defense.gov

39



COVER Midjourney

THE ONYX COLLECTION

Elegance for your bath

Showers & Lavatories

Custom Made in Kansas, USA Since 1985

Over 5000 Dealers Nationwide

800-669-9867

www.onyxcollection.com

Publisher
Steve Bonta

Editor-in-Chief
Gary Benoit

Managing Editor
John T. Larabell

Senior Editors
Paul Dragu • William F. Jasper
Alex Newman • Rebecca Terrell

Copy Editor
Liana Stanley

Contributors
Dennis Behreandt • Steve Byas
D. Michael DeRidder
Selwyn Duke • Brian Farmer
Christian Gomez • William P. Hoar
R. Cort Kirkwood • Veronika Kyrylenko
Annalisa Pesek • Dr. Duke Pesta
Peter Rykowski • Michael Tennant
Fr. James Thornton • Laurence M. Vance
Joe Wolverton II, J.D.

Creative Director
Joseph W. Kelly

Art Director
Katie Bradley

Graphic Designers
Lindsey McConnell
Jacob Vang

Advertising/Circulation Manager
Julie DuFrane

The New American

Printed in the U.S.A. • ISSN 0885-6540
770 N Westhill Blvd
Appleton, WI 54914

920-749-3784
www.thenewamerican.com
editorial@thenewamerican.com

Rates are $59 per year (Canada, add $9; foreign, add $27) Copyright ©2025 by American Opinion Publishing, Inc. Periodicals postage paid at Appleton, WI and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send any address changes to *The New American*, P.O. Box 8040, Appleton, WI 54912.

The New American is published twice monthly by American Opinion Publishing Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of The John Birch Society.

JBS.org

Vietnam Veritas

How much do you know about the Vietnam War? Seriously, how much do you *really* know?

No matter how much or little you do know (perhaps, unlike me, you were born long after the war ended), don't expect major media coverage of the 50th anniversary of the fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975 to enlighten you.

Why? Because the major media lied to the American people about Vietnam both before and during our military intervention, and the same media has continued to perpetuate the same false narrative right up to the present day. In fact, because of this false narrative, much of what many Americans know about the war is flat-out wrong. For example:

• American soldiers in Vietnam were not inhumane drug-addicted killers. They served their country honorably and deserve vindication, not condemnation.

• The U.S. military was not defeated on the battlefield. Washington's "rules of engagement," which did not become public until more than a decade after the war ended, put our soldiers in harm's way while denying them victory.

• All American POWs were not returned following the Paris Peace Accords in 1973. Not only were many left behind — but the Nixon administration knew it.

Another media deception is that, after the United States became entangled in the Vietnam quagmire, the United States had only two options: Continue fighting a protracted war, with mounting casualties on both sides; or get out immediately. Ignored was a third option: *Win quickly* and then get out. That third option was advocated by John Birch Society founder Robert Welch during the Vietnam War.

In his 1967 essay *The Truth About Vietnam*, Welch wrote: "In this writer's opinion, we should never have become involved in Vietnam at all. But, regardless of how we got there, or who put us there, we are too deeply involved today to have any honorable way out except through victory. It should be our determination not to escalate this war, nor to prolong it, nor to muddle through it, but *to win it*. A great American once said: 'In war, there is no substitute for victory!' This is certainly one time and place in the history of our nation when we must not even consider any substitute. *Victory, Then Peace!* must be our slogan and our goal." This and other excerpts from Welch's *The Truth About Vietnam* appear in this issue under the title "The John Birch Society on Vietnam" (page 25).

But earlier in the issue are two other important articles that shed much-needed light on the Vietnam War and its aftermath: "Americans Are Still Paying for the Vietnam War" by R. Cort Kirkwood (page 6) and "The Tragedy of Southeast Asia" by R.D. Patrick Mahoney (page 13). The latter is a republication of a remarkable account of "the war we should have won" by an American hero who operated outside Vietnam in clandestine warfare and who is now interred in the hallowed ground of Arlington National Cemetery. The information in these articles debunks much of the false narrative of fake news.

There's more! "Vietnam's Godly Grunt" by Rebecca Terrell (page 34) tells the inspirational story of Fr. Vincent Capodanno, who volunteered to go to Vietnam to minister to the soldiers, and who died on the battlefield while coming to the aid of another soldier, doing his duty to God and country. Another heroic figure who is larger than life is the late Hilaire du Berrier, whose 1965 book *Background to Betrayal: The Tragedy of Vietnam* provides (as the title promises) the background that led up to the Vietnam War. A new edition of du Berrier's book has just come out, and it is reviewed herein by William F. Jasper (page 39).

As if all of the information packed into this issue of *The New American* is not enough, much more about the Vietnam War is available at the website of The John Birch Society, the parent organization of this magazine. Go to JBS.org/Vietnam. There you will find, to cite just one example, the complete text of the rules of engagement that were entered into the *Congressional Record* by Senator Barry Goldwater in 1986.

We firmly believe that after reading the articles herein, many readers will conclude that not only have they learned much about America's involvement in Vietnam, but that much of what they had previously "learned" was wrong.

— Gary Benoit

AMERICANS ARE STILL PAYING FOR THE VIETNAM WAR

American POWs left behind in Vietnam died there, and now Vietnam collects U.S. foreign and military aid.

by R. Cort Kirkwood

The fall of Saigon 50 years ago on April 30 occasioned more than the haunting, humiliating scene of U.S. Army Huey helicopters lifting in defeat off the roof of the American embassy in Saigon, now Ho Chi Minh City — that name change being, perhaps, the final, emphatic statement that a Third World nation had beaten the world's greatest superpower.

By the time American involvement in Vietnam ended, taxpayers had funneled some $140 billion into the war, although "no figures are available on the exact amount of economic and military assistance channeled to Vietnam since 1950, when the United States agreed to give arms aid to the French-sponsored states of Indochina," *CQ Almanac* reported in 1975. That $140 billion a half-century ago would be $1 trillion today.

And that cost, the almanac continued, did not count veterans benefits of some $33 billion or, most importantly, the deaths of 58,281 Americans whose names appear on the once-controversial memorial wall in Washington, D.C. Nor does it count the millions of Vietnamese who died during the war.

Any American about 60 years old or older will remember a brutal and seemingly endless struggle. But most don't know that the costs of the war continued long after the United States pulled out in 1973.

The loss of South Vietnam to Hanoi's brutal communists led to other sequelae: Prisoners of war left behind to die at the hands of their captors, the murder of millions of Vietnamese, the wave of "boat people" who fled the communist regime for the United States and other countries, and the resumption of foreign aid in 1991 that was a mind-blowing $270 million in fiscal 2024 *alone*. And now the United States is exporting military aid to Vietnam.

All that brings to mind the late conservative columnist Holmes Alexander's admonition in the title of his last book: *Never Lose a War*.

R. Cort Kirkwood is a longtime contributor to The New American. *He was a newspaperman for more than 25 years.*

AP Images

Government failure: Two Vietnam-era defense secretaries told a U.S. Senate select committee that they believed POWs were left behind in Vietnam. Two Delta Force missions to rescue the men during the Reagan administration were scrapped.

The POWs

As the late Vietnam war hero Patrick Mahoney reminds readers in a piece republished in this issue (see page 13), U.S. Marine Corps General Raymond Davis, a Medal of Honor recipient during the Korean War and commander of the 3rd Marine Division in Vietnam, called the U.S. war policy that led to defeat a "total disaster."

Part of that disaster was the abandonment of "probably hundreds" of American POWs in Vietnam and Laos, as Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Sydney Schanberg, who died in 2016, wrote in his famous account of the POW coverup for *The Nation* in 2008.

Schanberg's "McCain and the POW Cover-up" proved beyond doubt that President Richard Nixon lied when he announced that Vietnam had returned all American POWs after the United States signed the Paris Peace Accords in 1973. He also detailed the role that now-deceased U.S. Senator John McCain (R-Ariz.) played in perpetuating that lie, likely because of questions about his behavior while he was a prisoner.

Schanberg's evidence that the Nixon administration left American fighting men behind, and that other administrations refused to get them back, was shocking. Schanberg didn't just prove that

★ ★ ★

ANY AMERICAN ABOUT 60 YEARS OLD OR OLDER WILL REMEMBER A BRUTAL AND SEEMINGLY ENDLESS STRUGGLE. BUT MOST DON'T KNOW THAT THE COSTS OF THE WAR CONTINUED LONG AFTER THE UNITED STATES PULLED OUT IN 1973.

POWs were alive years after the war. He also showed that presidents from Nixon through Ronald Reagan did nothing to secure their release, despite the Vietnamese communist regime's apparent willingness to trade POWs for money.

Examples of the evidence that POWs were still alive include:

• The Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) collected 1,600 first-hand and 14,000 second-hand reports about live Americans. "Some of the witnesses were given lie-detector tests and passed," Schanberg wrote. "Sources provided me with copies of these witness reports, which are impressive in their detail.… Yet the DIA, after reviewing all these reports, concluded that they 'do not constitute evidence' that men were alive."

• Thai communications officers reported that American POWs were moved among camps, Schanberg wrote:

> On December 27, 1980, a Thai military signal team picked up a message saying that prisoners were being moved out of Attopeu (in southern Laos) by aircraft "at 1230 hours." Three days later a message was sent from the CIA station in Bangkok to the CIA director's office in Langley. It read, in part: "The prisoners … are now in the valley in permanent location (a prison camp at Nhommarath in Central Laos). They were transferred from Attopeu to work in various places … POWs were formerly kept in caves and are very thin, dark and starving." Apparently the prisoners were real. But the transmission was declared "invalid" by Washington because the information came from a "third party" and thus could not be deemed credible.

• Government satellite photos show U.S. military distress signals on the ground even in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The "markings on the ground [were] identical to the signals that American pilots had been specifically trained to use in their survival courses — such as certain letters, like X or K, drawn in a special way." As well, "other markings were the secret four-digit authenticator numbers given to individual pilots," Schanberg explained. The Pentagon dismissed the images as "shadows and vegetation." One photo showed a missing American's name "gouged into a field." Pentagon verdict: *Nothing to see here. Go back to your homes. NOTHING TO SEE HERE.*

• Some of the most compelling information came from something called PAVE SPIKE, a classified program that used "motion sensors, dropped by air, designed to pick up enemy troop movements. Shaped on one end like a spike with an electronic pod and antenna on top, they were designed to stick in the ground as they fell," Schanberg wrote.

But the spikes buried in the ground didn't just collect intelligence about enemy movements. "Someone on the ground — a downed airman or a prisoner on a labor gang — could manually enter data into the sensor. All data were regularly collected electronically by US planes flying overhead."

Schanberg noted that, according to Dolores Alfond, sister of a missing airman and chair of a group of POW relatives:

> In 1974, a year after the supposedly complete return of prisoners, the gathered data showed that a person or people had manually entered into the sensors — as US pilots had been trained to do — "no less than 20 authenticator numbers that corresponded exactly to the classified authenticator numbers of 20 US POWs who were lost in Laos."

For anyone who mightn't believe that evidence, Schanberg reported on the work of Harvard researcher Stephen Morris, who found and published the transcript of General Tran Van Quang's briefing to North Vietnam's politburo in 1973, *four months before* Secretary of State Henry Kissinger inked the Paris peace pact.

"Quang told the Hanoi politburo that 1,205 US prisoners were being held," Schanberg wrote of the transcript:

> Quang said that many of the prisoners would be held back from Washington after the accords as bar-

AP Images

Ignored: Downed airmen could use PAVESPIKE devices, air-dropped motion sensors used to track enemy troop movements, to enter their authenticator numbers. U.S. aircraft flying overhead collected PAVESPIKE data. Former *New York Times* reporter Sydney Schanberg reported that at least 20 POWs never returned from Laos had entered authenticator numbers.

Boat people: As many as two million people fled Vietnam on boats. Anywhere from 200,000 to 400,000 died.

AP Images

gaining chips for war reparations. General Quang's report added: "This is a big number. Officially, until now, we published a list of only 368 prisoners of war. The rest we have not revealed. The government of the USA knows this well, but it does not know the exact number … and can only make guesses based on its losses. That is why we are keeping the number of prisoners of war secret, in accordance with the politburo's instructions." The report then went on to explain in clear and specific language that a large number would be kept back to ensure reparations.

The reparations figure was $3.25 billion, which Congress refused to approve. After the French paid reparations when they withdrew from their war, Vietnam released French POWs.

Kissinger revealed to GOP Senator Bob Smith of New Hampshire, vice chairman of the select committee that probed the POW issue from 1989 to 1993, that Nixon had threatened to bomb North Vietnam unless it released all the POWs. Nixon did not follow through. The former secretary of state revealed in his memoirs that "we knew of at least 80 instances in which an American serviceman had been captured alive and subsequently disappeared.… Yet none of these men was on the list of POWs handed over after the Agreement."

But Kissinger isn't the only top Nixon official to come clean. Vietnam War defense secretaries Melvin Laird and James Schlesinger also testified to the committee that POWs were abandoned.

Fast forward to the Reagan administration and Command Sergeant Major Eric Haney, a Delta Force operator. Haney revealed that Delta trained for a POW rescue mission in 1981 that was aborted. Likewise, another such mission was "abruptly aborted" the following year. "Years later, I spoke at length with a former highly placed member of the North Vietnamese diplomatic corps," an upset Haney wrote, "and this person asked me point-blank: 'Why did the Americans never attempt to recover their remaining POWs after the conclusion of the war?'"

Haney wasn't the only Reagan-era witness to the men left behind. Also in 1981, through an intermediary nation, Vietnam offered to ransom POWs, an offer top officials discussed in the Roosevelt Room of the White House, Schanberg wrote. President Ronald Reagan was there, as were Vice President George H.W. Bush, a former CIA chief; CIA Director William Casey; and National Security Advisor Richard Allen.

Allen confirmed the offer in sworn testimony to the Senate POW committee on June 23, 1992, Schanberg wrote:

> Allen was allowed to testify behind closed doors and no information was released. But a *San Diego Union-Tribune* reporter, Robert Caldwell, obtained the portion relating to the ransom offer and reported on it. The ransom request was for $4 billion, Allen testified. He said he told Reagan that "it would be worth the president's going along and let's have the negotiation." When his testimony appeared in the *Union-Tribune*, Allen quickly wrote a letter to the panel, this time not under oath, recanting the ransom story and claiming his memory had played tricks on him. His new version was that some POW activists had asked him about such an offer in a meeting that took place in 1986, when he was no longer in government. "It appears," he said in the letter, "that there never was a 1981 meeting about the return of POW/MIAs for $4 billion."

A witness who recants sworn testimony, particularly in this case, is legally problematic. And obviously, those men did meet in the Roosevelt Room to discuss the ransom. Just as obviously, they decided against it, possibly because it might encourage such demands from terrorists. Whatever the reason they abandoned the POWs, someone obviously strong-armed Allen into reversing himself, despite testimony *given under oath*. Allen, the last surviving witness to the meeting, took the truth to his grave in November last year.

The one man who did the most to cover

★ ★ ★

VIETNAM ISN'T JUST RECEIVING TAXPAYER MONEY. THE UNITED STATES ALSO SELLS MILITARY SUPPLIES AND WEAPONS TO ITS FORMER ENEMY, PRESUMABLY AS A HEDGE AGAINST CHINA.

up the scandal, Schanberg wrote during McCain's failed GOP presidential candidacy, was McCain himself. Scion of a prominent Navy family — McCain's father was commander in chief of the Pacific during the Vietnam War — McCain was "the war hero who people would logically imagine as a determined crusader for the interests of POWs and their families [who] became instead the strange champion of hiding the evidence and closing the books."

Indeed, despite the mountain of evidence that American POWs were abandoned, McCain wrecked two pieces of legislation that would have required government transparency about the matter. Through the years, "McCain has insisted again and again that all the evidence — documents, witnesses, satellite photos, two Pentagon chiefs' sworn testimony, aborted rescue missions, ransom offers apparently scorned — has been woven together by unscrupulous deceivers to create an insidious and unpatriotic myth," Schanberg wrote:

> He calls it the "bizarre rantings of the MIA hobbyists." He has regularly vilified those who keep trying to pry out classified documents as "hoaxers," "charlatans," "conspiracy theorists," and "dime-store Rambos."

But we now know the truth, from the words of U.S. and communist North Vietnamese officials and one would-be rescuer who was slated for a mission to bring the men home.

Sylvester Stallone's Rambo was right. Gene Hackman's Colonel Cal Rhodes in *Uncommon Valor* was right. Chuck Norris' Colonel James Braddock in *Missing in Action* was right. The U.S. government abandoned its POWs in Southeast Asia. And all of them almost certainly died there.

The decades of pain and suffering among the families of POWs who were known to have been taken prisoner and never returned is just one of the baleful effects of permitting North Vietnam to seize the whole country in 1975.

Refugees, Democide, and Free Money for the Communists

The North Vietnamese Reds had barely raised their flag over South Vietnam when South Vietnamese civilians and former soldiers began a mass exodus, boarding small, sometimes barely seaworthy, boats to escape communist tyranny.

The refugees who fled would have faced "forced relocation, being held as political prisoners, and even death" in the newly united Socialist Republic of Vietnam, *National Geographic* explained. An estimated 200,000 to 300,000 former soldiers, government officials, and supporters of the government of South Vietnam landed in "re-education camps" for brainwashing.

Thus were 120,000 Vietnamese dropped into the United States, where President Ford asked "a coalition of church groups, southern Democratic governors, labor leaders, and the American Jewish Congress to secure housing and jobs."

Others weren't so lucky, and became the "boat people." Estimates of those who boarded boats to flee in the South China Sea range as high as two million, and somewhere between 200,000 and 400,000 died at sea. Their destinations included countries across Asia, including Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines. Many continued to the First World, notably, again, the United States.

"As the humanitarian crisis and displacement of people in the Indochina region (Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos) intensified, more refugees and their families were admitted to the United States," the Migration Policy Institute reported in 2018:

> The Vietnamese immigrant population has grown significantly since then, roughly doubling every decade between 1980 and 2000, and then increasing 26 percent in the 2000s. In 2017, more than 1.3 million Vietnamese resided in the United States, accounting for 3 percent of the nation's 44.5 million immigrants and representing the sixth-largest foreign-born group in the country.

In 1980, just 231,000 Vietnamese were in the United States. By 1990, the figure was 543,000, and 10 years later, 988,000. The figure hit 1.241 million in 2010, and by 2017 was 1.343 million.

They were lucky. Aside from attempting to brainwash their former enemies, the communist "liberators" of South Vietnam murdered millions who didn't flee after the war. R.J. Rummel, author of *Death by Government*, estimates that communist governments in Southeast Asia murdered 3.5 million people between 1975 and 1995: 528,000 in Vietnam, 130,000 in Laos, and 2.85 million in Cambodia. Rummel estimated that 250,000 boat people died.

After the three countries held POWs for reparations and ransom, then drove millions of Vietnamese into the sea and murdered millions more, one might imagine that the United States would see to it that not a single penny of taxpayer-subsidized foreign aid went to Vietnam, Laos, or Cambodia. Alas and alack, former POWs and other Vietnam veterans, along with the families of missing men and those who died there, can take comfort in knowing the U.S. government has lavished billions of dollars in "foreign aid" on those nations.

Disbursed foreign aid to Vietnam in 2024 alone was about $270 million; most of it, of course, from the U.S. Agency for International Development. But from 2001 through part of fiscal 2025, the figure is a mind-boggling $2.73 billion. Laos

Fate unknown: 58,281 Americans died during the Vietnam War. But at least the families of those men knew what happened to them. The families of hundreds of POWs whom Vietnam refused to return still don't know their fate.

AP Images

and Cambodia have cashed in on taxpayers as well, ForeignAssistance.gov shows.

Yet Vietnam isn't just receiving taxpayer money. The United States also sells military supplies and weapons to its former enemy, presumably as a hedge against China. On Day 1 of the new Trump administration, the State Department announced that the United States is growing ever closer to its erstwhile communist enemy.

"The U.S. security relationship with Vietnam continues to expand and the two countries share a common vision for the future of a free and open Indo-Pacific region," the department announced. The two nations "have held 12 Political, Security, and Defense Dialogues to discuss bilateral security cooperation." Those included such topics as "legacy of war issues, security cooperation (regional issues, maritime security, humanitarian assistance), peacekeeping operations, and other security initiatives."

In March 2018, during the first Trump administration, the USS *Carl Vinson*, a *Nimitz*-class supercarrier, visited the nation, the first such event in nearly half a century. The USS *Theodore Roosevelt* sailed into port two years later for five days, the department continued:

> Sailors participated in cultural exchanges and community service projects including making crafts, playing sports, a language exchange, gardening, and painting, demonstrating the importance of people-to-people ties between the United States and Vietnam. A professional exchange also took place during the visit focused on cooperating on infectious disease prevention.

From 2016 through 2021, the United States exported almost $30 million of "defense articles" to Vietnam, including "Fire Control / Night Vision ($25.5 million), ... Electronics ($1.8 million), and ... Firearms and related articles ($777,592)," while the United States "has over $118 million in active Foreign Military Sales with Vietnam." And from fiscal 2017 through 2023, Vietnam collected $104 million from the U.S. State Department in security assistance, plus a separate $81.5 million for Indo-Pacific Strategy in 2018.

Since 1993, the United States has also provided Vietnam $230 million to find unexploded ordnance (UXO) from the war. That money is for "locating and destroying UXO, information management, risk education, survivors' assistance, and capacity building for the Vietnam National Mine Action Center."

The department's release does not mention the American prisoners of war that Vietnam never returned, or what Vietnam has done for the families of those men. "Survivors' assistance" for them, apparently, isn't part of the new bargain.

The United States lost the war, and Americans still pay for it. ■

EXTRA COPIES AVAILABLE

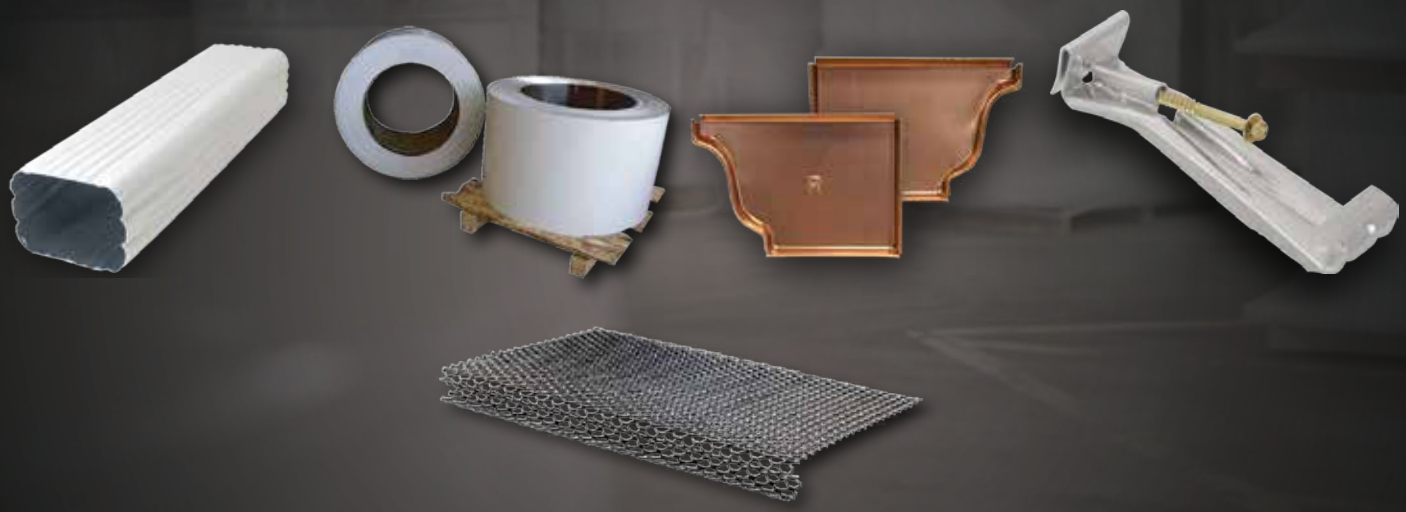
Additional copies of this issue of *The New American* are available at quantity-discount prices. To place your order, visit www.shopjbs.org.

RAINSTAMP®

RM

MANUFACTURING

PROVIDING THE LARGEST SELECTION OF RAINWARE PRODUCTS IN THE WORLD



Your trusted source for top-quality rainware products

- We specialize in crafting premium gutter coil and a wide range of gutter accessories, with a commitment to excellence and innovation.
- We offer competitive pricing and convenient access to our extensive product line
- Explore our catalog for top-quality rainware products

A trusted partner you can rely on!

MADE IN AMERICA

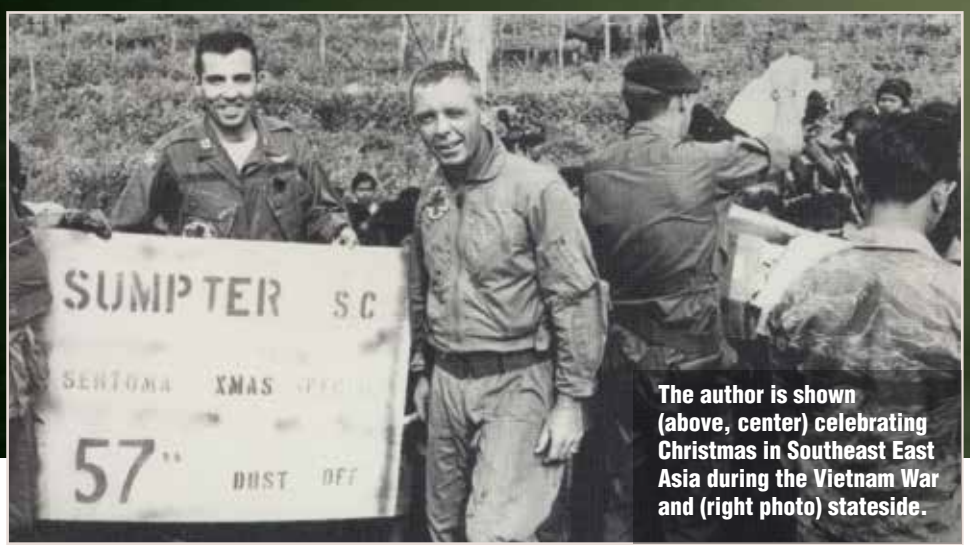
RAINSTAMP.COM

© 2024 RAINSTAMP MANUFACTURING

227 SOUTH TOWN EAST BLVD. MESQUITE, TX 75149

THE TRAGEDY OF SOUTHEAST ASIA

A Vietnam veteran looks back at the war we should have won



The author is shown (above, center) celebrating Christmas in Southeast East Asia during the Vietnam War and (right photo) stateside.

by R.D. Patrick Mahoney

The late R.D. Patrick Mahoney (1926-1999) served his country in three wars: World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. In the latter conflict, he served in Southeast Asia from 1966 to 1970 as an Air Force noncommissioned officer attached to the Army Special Forces in clandestine warfare outside of Vietnam. Robin Moore, author of the bestselling 1966 book The Green Berets *(which was the basis for the popular 1968 John Wayne film of the same title), said the Sergeant Petersen character in the movie (played by actor Jim Hutton) was patterned after Patrick Mahoney, who was legendary for finding and "appropriating" badly needed ammunition and supplies for remote Special Forces teams.*

In civilian life, Mahoney was a researcher on the staff of The John Birch Society (the parent organization of this magazine) and a congressional special assistant and military affairs advisor, first to Representative John G. Schmitz of California, and then to Representative Larry McDonald of Georgia. He was also a longtime active member of the Special Operations Association. He is interred in Arlington National Cemetery next to the grave of his good friend Colonel James "Nick" Rowe, one of the few American prisoners of war to escape captivity in Vietnam (after five years of harrowing imprisonment). Together with Col. Rowe, Master Sergeant Mahoney developed the modern SERE (Survival Evasion Resistance and Escape) program for the Special Forces.

This article originally appeared in our February 1, 1988 issue, 15 years after the Paris Peace Accords were signed. We are reprinting Patrick Mahoney's article here, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the fall of Saigon, because his understanding and recollections of the war are as relevant as ever. The lessons of Vietnam should never be forgotten, including the folly of intervening in foreign military conflicts in which American soldiers are killed and maimed without being permitted to win. — The Editors

Fifteen years have gone by since officials of the United States and Communist North Vietnam signed an accord in Paris to end U.S. involvement in Vietnam. "Now that we have achieved an honorable settlement," said President Richard Nixon on January 23, 1973, "let us be proud that America did not settle for a peace that would have betrayed our allies, that would have abandoned our prisoners of war, that would have ended the war for us but would have continued the war for the 50 million people of Indochina."

As on so many other occasions during his political career, Richard Nixon was not being truthful with the American people. For the accord that Henry Kissinger had negotiated was designed to do exactly what Mr. Nixon said it would not do — betray our allies, abandon some of our prisoners of war, and continue the war for the suffering people of Indo-

It has been said that Vietnam was the first war to be lost not on the battlefield or at the negotiating table, but on the printed page and the television screen. The media's distortion of what was actually happening in Vietnam would be almost beyond belief if it had not been so thoroughly documented.

china. What else could be expected of an agreemen that allowed the Communists to keep 145,000 North Vietnamese troops in South Vietnam?

On January 24th, Hanoi's negotiator, Le Duc Tho, called the accord a "great victory." And so it was. The Reds began violating it immediately and, 27 months later, completed their subjugation of South Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. Millions died in the bloodbath that followed and millions more fled their tortured lands. America had suffered a disastrous defeat in the Vietnam War and more than 58,000 Americans and nearly 200,000 South Vietnamese had sacrificed their lives in vain.

The First Television War

It has been said that Vietnam was the first war to be lost not on the battlefield or at the negotiating table, but on the printed page and the television screen. The media's distortion of what was actually happening in Vietnam would be almost beyond belief if it had not been so thoroughly documented. The American Left was not satisfied that it had been able to undermine the support of the American people for the war effort during the late 1960s and early 1970s; it has continued to spread lies and misinformation about the war in recent years, primarily through such widely acclaimed films as *Platoon*, which was voted the best movie of 1986, *Hamburger Hill*, and *Full Metal Jacket*, and through a 13-part Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) series entitled *Vietnam: A Television History.*

The major fault of the three films mentioned above is that they take isolated instances of evil and make them seem to be the way in which the entire war was conducted. If U.S. soldiers are not portrayed as drug-addicted, immoral, and inhuman killers, they are shown as mindless robots with no idea of the reasons why they were fighting and dying. There are no heroes in these movies, but I served with hundreds of heroic men, men who had laid down their lives not only for their fellow Americans but also for the brave people of Vietnam and Laos. I saw tough U.S. soldiers providing food and medicine to civilians, entertaining children with games and gifts on Christmas Eve at a Special Forces camp, and transporting to more secure areas families whose homes and villages had been destroyed by the Communists.

If Americans were such drug-addicted and evil animals, why have so many Vietnamese refugees come to America to build new lives? Is it too much to hope for one movie that will tell the truth about the Vietnam War? Lionel Chetwynd tried in *The Hanoi Hilton* to show the courage and constancy of American POWs during a nine-year captivity, but critics panned the film because it put "antiwar" types like Jane Fonda in a bad light. The movie lasted only a few weeks in the theaters.

Many Vietnam veterans have expressed outrage at the portrayal of American soldiers in Vietnam. Objecting to the characterizations in *Platoon*, former Army Captain John Walker said:

> After having served two tours in Vietnam (both in combat units), I can truthfully say the following: (1) I do not remember ever seeing any of my fellow soldiers smoking dope; (2) Having been involved in numerous searches and sweeps of hamlets, I never once saw a harmless old Vietnamese man or woman needlessly executed or any female raped by U.S. or ARVN [South Vietnamese] troops. We only fired upon known enemy and usually only after being fired upon; (3) The discipline in our

National Archives

Call of duty: As in past wars, Americans went to Vietnam to fight for their country. But unlike the past, instead of being honored for their heroism and sacrifice, they were ridiculed and characterized by the media as inhumane drug-addicted killers.

unit never deteriorated to the point where we fought among ourselves; (4) I don't remember hearing as much profanity during the two years I was there as there was in the two-hour movie....

Propaganda by PBS

In the fall of 1983, the Public Broadcasting Service ran a 13-hour series on the Vietnam War that was so slanted it could have been produced in Hanoi. Even though PBS had the benefit of ten years of hindsight, it repeated the journalistic errors of the 1960s. It was propaganda, not history, when PBS painted North Vietnamese Communist butcher Ho Chi Minh as a patriot and a nationalist. It was propaganda, not history, when PBS tarred Americans who fought in Vietnam as drug addicts, racial bigots, and brutal killers. It was propaganda, not history, when PBS showed insignificant antiwar protests but ignored major pro-Vietnam demonstrations such as the parade of a quarter of a million people through New York City in May 1967.

The antidote to the PBS poison was provided in 1984 and 1985 by Accuracy in Media, which produced a two-hour video, narrated by Charlton Heston, that corrects the myths and misinformation spread by PBS and other media outlets. Entitled *Television's Vietnam*, the AIM documentary shows how the media portrayed the 1968 Tet offensive of the Communists as a defeat for the American side when in fact it was a military disaster for the enemy. It also shows how the media ignored the systematic Communist massacre of more than 3,000 civilians in the South Vietnamese city of Hue in February 1968, but gave enormous coverage to the killing of several hundred civilians by American soldiers at My Lai, an aberration that was contrary to U.S. policy.

There are many other lies rebutted in the AIM documentary and it is must viewing for those who want the truth about the Vietnam War.

The betrayal of South Vietnam and the rest of Indochina to the Communists did not just happen in 1973. It began long before that, 30 years before, in fact, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Soviet dictator Josef Stalin agreed at a summit meeting in Teheran not to let France regain control of Indochina after World War II. Another huge boost for the Communists occurred at the Yalta Conference in February 1945 when Roosevelt sold out the Far East by giving Stalin the vast supply of Japanese arms in the Manchurian region of China. These arms helped the Chinese Communists to capture the mainland and prepared the way for war in Korea and Vietnam. One of the most accurate and prophetic statements about Yalta was made by Senator Joseph R. McCarthy: "Here were born the seeds for which men are dying today in the hills and valleys of Korea ... and will die tomorrow in the jungles of Indochina."

The New American

Helping hands: This image of American soldiers distributing clothing to Vietnamese villagers is far more representative of the true character of the warriors our leaders put in harm's way than the way they were generally depicted back home.

Even before the American people learned the details of the Yalta sellout, their political leaders were taking other steps to make the world safe for Communism. U.S. military men were ordered not to take the strategic European cities of Berlin and Prague, leaving them to the rapacious Soviet troops advancing from the East. "What the tin soldier politicians in Washington and Paris have managed to do today," General George S. Patton told reporters, "is another story you'll be writing for a long while if you live. They have allowed us to kick the hell out of one bastard and at the same time *forced* us to help establish a second one as evil or more evil than the first."

Five years after Patton's warning, American soldiers were at war again, this time against Communist forces in Korea. The North Koreans had invaded the South in June 1950 and had almost pushed the U.S. and South Korean armies off the peninsula when General Douglas MacArthur staged his brilliant landing at Inchon in September, cutting off the North Korean Army in the South. The allied forces quickly mopped up the Communists in the South and then moved north, capturing the Communist capital of Pyongyang in October and moving toward the Yalu River that separated North Korea from Manchuria. We had won the Korean War.

Enter Red China

On November 3rd, MacArthur notified his superiors in Washington that Red China had more than 800,000 men massed in Manchuria, ready to invade Korea. He ordered General George Stratemeyer to dispatch 90 bombers to destroy the Yalu bridges, but the order was countermanded by Secretary of Defense George C. Marshall, who directed MacArthur not only to leave the bridges intact but also to give the Communists a five-mile-deep sanctuary on the *Korean* side of the Yalu. "For the first time in military history," said MacArthur, "a commander has been

denied the use of his military power to safeguard the lives of his soldiers and safety of his army."

The Red Chinese hordes, their leaders having been informed by traitors in Washington that MacArthur's hands would be tied, swarmed over the Yalu bridges in November 1950 and fierce fighting resumed. Congressional hearings after the war concluded that most of the 5,000 captive Americans who died of atrocities in Korea were murdered by Chinese Communists. But even with the restrictions, U.S. forces had begun to regain the initiative against the Chinese Reds when President Harry Truman fired General MacArthur in April 1951. The bloody fighting continued for another two years before ending in an unsatisfactory stalemate that left South Korea free but North Korea and Red China still saddled with brutal Communist regimes that were now emboldened by their successes against a more militarily powerful United States of America.

Many Americans remember Douglas MacArthur's stirring speech to Congress when he returned to Washington in the spring of 1951, particularly his declaration that in war "there is no substitute for victory." But how many recall the remarks of General George Stratemeyer when he appeared before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee in 1954? "I don't know anything about politics," Stratemeyer told the Senators. "All my life has been spent in the military. But there is something going on, has been going on, ever since World War II ended. Right up to this minute, there is some hidden force or some hidden power or something that is influencing our people. They don't act like Americans. Americans are supposed to have guts, and our policy, as I read it, is wishy-washy and appeasing."

In the summer of 1956, the CBS Radio Network asked George Stratemeyer for a two-minute statement in answer to the question: "What major lesson should we have learned in the Korean War?" The retired Air Force officer replied:

> The lessons learned from our defeat in the Korean War are these : (l) Don't ever again fight under the United Nations. You will not be permitted to win; (2) Always support those leaders who hate godless Communism as exemplified in General MacArthur, [South Korean] President Syngman Rhee, General Partridge, and President Chiang Kai-shek; (3) The United States Air Force can always supply the air needs of the ground forces; (4) Keep the U.S. State Department out of military business; (5) Air supply and air transportation are absolute necessities to the air forces, the ground forces, and the Navy in any future war.

CBS broadcast only lessons three and five. A few years later, General Stratemeyer joined The John Birch Society and worked unceasingly until his death in 1969 to expose the "hidden power" behind U.S. policies that always seem to help the Communists and hurt the cause of freedom.

When World War II had ended, France sent 70,000 soldiers to reestablish its authority in Indochina and quadrupled that commitment over the next nine years. Fighting between the French and Communist guerrillas headed by longtime Red revolutionary Ho Chi Minh, who had been put in power in 1945 by U.S. agents working through the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), was sporadic at first but blossomed into total war after the Korean armistice gave a terrific boost to the morale, prestige, and military strength of Communists in Asia. On May 7, 1954, the Communists routed the French at Dien Bien Phu after the Eisenhower Administration, on five separate occasions, had ruled out a one-hour air strike that would have broken the back of the Communists.

While the Red triumph at Dien Bien Phu was in reality a Pyrrhic victory because Ho's forces had been badly decimated, it gave the Communists a psychological advantage at the international conference in Geneva that summer. The accords reached in Geneva, which were not signed by the United States, divided French Indochina into four countries — Cambodia, Laos, South Vietnam, and Communist-controlled North Vietnam. When Ho began consolidating his Red tyranny in the North, more than a million people fled to the South, many of them sealifted by U.S. ships.

The logical ruler in South Vietnam was former Emperor Bao Dai, who had become chief of state in 1949. But leftists in America pressured Bao Dai to appoint as his prime minister a man named Ngo Dinh Diem, who subsequently ousted Bao Dai, became president of South Vietnam in 1955, and imposed a brutal dictatorship on the country until he was assassinated in 1963. While some conservatives con-

The New American

The ultimate sacrifice: In both Korea and Vietnam, American soldiers were permitted to die but not to win. Above, a priest administers Last Rites for Americans who were bound and shot by Chinese communists during the Korean War.

tinue to believe Diem was an anti-Communist hero, the facts suggest otherwise. And no one has done a better job of laying out those facts than Hilaire du Berrier, an American journalist who spent many years in Indochina and France and knew some of the personalities involved in the tragedy of Southeast Asia. His book, *Background to Betrayal*,* is an indispensable source of information about events in that part of the world from 1945 to 1963.

Du Berrier, more than any other individual, has provided chapter and verse about the brainwashing machine in America that glorified Diem and covered up his ruthless policies in the late 1950s. Diem's principal backers during that period included Senator Mike Mansfield of Montana; Angier Biddle Duke, who headed American Friends of Vietnam; public relations promoters Harold Oram and Joseph Buttinger; Wesley Fishel at Michigan State University; and of course such media giants as *Harper's* magazine and the *New York Times*. Columnist Joseph Alsop, at one time a staunch supporter of Diem and of American involvement in South Vietnam, went so far as to say in 1971: "It is quite possible that there would have been no war at all if it had not been for the *Times* and the present Senate Majority Leader, Mike Mansfield of Montana."

One of the most important cogs in the Diem propaganda machine was Army Colonel Edward G. Lansdale, who went to Saigon in June 1954 as the personal representative of CIA chief Allen Dulles and helped solidify Diem's control of the country by destroying his opponents. Virtually nothing happened in Saigon at that time in which Lansdale was not involved in one way or another. He reported back to the CIA that only Diem could prevent a Communist takeover of South Vietnam. And that myth was spread by the liberals until they turned on Diem in 1961. The myth was then adopted by some conservatives who felt that Diem must be good because of the enemies he had acquired on the Left.

What Happened Under Diem?

Instead of creating a democratic society, Ngo Dinh Diem established a family dictatorship that brought wealth and power to him, his brother Ngo Dinh Nhu, a former labor leader who controlled the police, public and secret; his brother's wife, Madame Nhu, the beautiful "first lady" of Vietnam, who managed business deals and secret funds through a women's paramilitary organization of her own; his brother Monsignor Ngo Dinh Thuc, the Archbishop of Hue, who controlled the Catholic churches of South Vietnam; and his brother Ngo Dinh Can, who regulated the rice traffic and treated the northern part of the country as his own personal fief.

Not only did Diem not take effective steps to oppose the Communists, he systematically destroyed the country's three most implacable anti-Communist forces — the Cao Dai religious sect whose three and a half million followers kept the Communists out of an area that ran from 15 miles northwest of Saigon to the Cambodian border; the Hoa Hao sect whose two million members kept the Communists away from the great rice markets of the Mekong delta; and the Binh Xuyen of former pirate Bai Vien, whom du Berrier has called "Vietnam's Rambo" and of whom French journalist Raymond Cartier wrote: "He cleared Saigon of Communist hit teams and spies like a rat-terrier killing rats."

President Diem an anti-Communist? The chief of the Ngo Dinh brothers' secret police was Albert Pham Ngoc Thao, who had been Ho Chi Minh's intelligence chief in the southern region of Vietnam during the war against the French. Seventeen years after du Berrier reported Thao's ties with Ho, columnist Stanley Karnow confirmed what du Berrier had said. In an article that appeared in the *Wall Street Journal* on February 10, 1982, Karnow admitted that, in the early 1960s, he and Joe Alsop and others had praised Colonel Thao and turned him into a celebrity as one of the Diem regime's toughest foes of the Communists.

Writing from Ho Chi Minh City in 1982, however, Karnow said he had learned that "Col. Thao was a key Communist operative all along." He said that Thao had "urged President Diem to construct 'agrovilles,' enclosures into which peasants were forcibly corralled to cut them off from the Viet Cong. He later designed the 'Strategic Hamlet' program, which had a similar aim. But both schemes were actually devious devices. Or as one of Col. Thao's old comrades told me: 'His purpose was to antagonize peasants and alienate them from the Diem regime, and it worked.'"

AP Images

Where's the front? U.S. Marines approach a suspected Viet Cong village, not knowing what may happen next. Throughout South Vietnam, the enemy had hidden itself amongst civilians who often were victimized by communist thugs who claimed to be their benefactors.

**See our review on page 39.*

Mr. Karnow also offered one explanation for the publication of false information in journals like *Time* magazine:

> There are other cases, like that of my friend Pham Xuan An, who worked as a full-fledged correspondent for *Time* magazine in Saigon, an unusual position for a Vietnamese journalist. He also furnished the U.S. embassy with inside information — or perhaps it was "disinformation." For he really was a Communist agent, and he is now a senior official in the administration here.

American aid pouring into Vietnam through the National Bank of South Vietnam was administered by another Communist, Vu Van Thai, who worked along with the Diem government's credit chief, Albert Pham Ngoc Thao. The American people were told that this aid was building a buffer against Communism, but in fact it was being used to turn South Vietnam into a police state where opponents of the regime were being jailed or executed. While Diem was antagonizing the peasants and driving some of them into the arms of the Viet Cong, he was also destroying the wonderful alliance between Catholics and Buddhists. One Catholic priest who had spent 37 years in the Orient pointed out that Diem, a nominal Catholic, had ruined all that had been done over 150 years to create understanding between Catholics and Buddhists.

As Diem's oppressive policies became harder and harder to cover up in 1962 and 1963, his one-time admirers on the Left deserted him. His favorable image in America began to change in the summer of 1963 as Buddhist monks immolated themselves to protest the massacre of Buddhist women and children in Hue by Diem's soldiers in May 1963. Madame Nhu helped restore some of the image with a whirlwind coast-to-coast tour of the United States in October, but the effort went for naught when her husband and President Diem were overthrown by the military and executed on November 1st.

AP Images

Before America's involvement: French soldiers man a trench at Dien Bien Phu prior to its fall to the communists in 1954. The debacle, which was avoidable, resulted in complete communist subjugation of North Vietnam.

The Ngo Dinhs, and their liberal sponsors in the United States, had brought South Vietnam to the brink of anarchy. The Communists were growing daily in strength and reach, stepping up their attacks on villages and military units. The next phase of the Vietnam tragedy — the introduction of American fighting men in the jungles of Asia — was about to begin.

Writing to Ngo Dinh Diem in 1954, President Dwight Eisenhower promised U.S. support to "assist the government of Vietnam in developing and maintaining a strong, viable state, capable of resisting attempted subversion or aggression through military means." He began sending American soldiers to South Vietnam as advisors. The numbers increased into the thousands under President John Kennedy and the advisors became fighters. JFK initiated the no-win policy in Vietnam when he implemented General Maxwell Taylor's strategy of "flexible response," which involved hitting the enemy just hard enough to let him know you were there but not hard enough to put him out of commission. All that this defensive strategy accomplished was to give the North Vietnamese more time to infiltrate their troops into the South, which forced the United States to send larger numbers of soldiers to meet the challenge.

The major infiltration route for men and supplies was the Ho Chi Minh trail, which wound its way from North Vietnam through Laos and Cambodia and into South Vietnam. Regular troops of the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) used this route, as well as sanctuaries in Laos and Cambodia, to launch their attacks on the South. The task faced by U.S. forces bordered on the impossible. They were not allowed to pursue the NVA into their sanctuaries and they had to deal at the same time with the terror tactics of the Viet Cong, who were executing village chiefs by the thousands and kidnapping wives and children to force husbands and fathers to fight with the VC — or at least to supply and protect them — if they ever hoped to see their loved ones again.

In the meantime, U.S. advisory groups were trying to undo some of the damage done to the people by the repressive Diem regime. These groups worked with various classes and religious denominations — all of whom wanted the same thing: freedom from Communism. Their efforts were rewarded as the Buddhists rallied to

the cause, the Montagnards in the Central Highlands began fighting the VC and the NVA, and the Chinese Nungs became the most trusted allies of the Army Special Forces. But still the Communist attacks and terror continued. One typical example was given by a close friend, a Green Beret medic named John Dryden, who went back to a friendly Vietnamese village after the Reds had been there:

> When I arrived at the outpost, it was impossible not to see my friends. Their bodies were on one side of the highway, laid out as if for inspection, their heads on the other side. It was all militarily neat and orderly. Their wives and children, as befitting mere civilians, were not in ranks. They lay where they had been shot or bayoneted — haphazardly. Every single living thing in that community was dead — water buffalo, pigs, and dogs.

This was not an isolated instance. This kind of barbarism was occurring all over South Vietnam. The Communists were getting bolder as more NVA regulars and more war materiél poured into the South, and by 1965 there were over half a million Americans in the country. The logical question at this point is why didn't we go after the enemy's staging areas and supply dumps? Why didn't we hit the Ho Chi Minh trail and the sanctuaries and stop the Communists before they got into South Vietnam? The answer, of course, is that the politicians in Washington did not want to inflict any lasting damage on the Communists. Just as in Korea, the lives and safety of American soldiers and Marines came in second to political considerations.

The problem, said General Ira C. Eaker at the time, was that "in all our past wars we had professional military leaders and amateur soldiers. Vietnam is our first war where we have professional soldiers and amateur leaders." General Curtis LeMay, the first head of the Strategic Air Command, put it this way: "It is a war in which we are attempting to win without winning, trying to destroy without destroying. It is an Alice-in-Wonderland war."

Military Experts Ignored

In February 1965, President Lyndon Johnson announced his version of "flexible response" by ordering limited bombing of selected targets in North Vietnam. What was hailed as a bold step, however, was nothing of the kind, since the President had ruled out strikes on important military installations, major industrial plants, and the port of Haiphong through which flowed 70 percent of North Vietnam's war supplies. LBJ showed his true colors two months later by offering North Vietnam $1 billion to rehabilitate the country if it would end the fighting. Ho Chi Minh rejected the bribe.

Over the next three years, the President played carrot-and-stick with the Communists by unilaterally halting the limited U.S. bombing raids on the North for varying periods of time in an effort to get the Reds to the negotiating table. But all that accomplished was to help the Communists resupply and reinforce their troops in South Vietnam during the bombing pauses so they could launch new attacks.

One of the great myths to come out of the Vietnam War is that U.S. air power was not able to defeat a guerrilla army. The fact is that U.S. air power was never effectively used for any extended period of time during the war. From 1965 to 1968, it was the virtually unanimous opinion of U.S. military leaders that the war could be won in a matter of weeks by destroying North Vietnam's capability for waging war. In 1965, Air Force Chief of Staff General John P. McConnell said the United States had the military capacity to win the war "virtually overnight," but that "President Johnson has emphasized that it is our national policy to keep this conflict at the lowest possible level of intensity, for humanitarian as well as for political reasons."

In March 1968, *Science & Mechanics* magazine interviewed top military personnel who concluded that the war could

AP Images

Freedom fighter: Laotian General Vang Pao, the beloved leader of the Hmong people, fought valiantly against the communists. A sign over the entrance to his headquarters proclaimed where he stood: "To be born a free man is an accident; to live one a responsibility; to die one an obligation." He is shown here with prisoners.

The logical question at this point is why didn't we go after the enemy's staging areas and supply dumps? Why didn't we hit the Ho Chi Minh trail and the sanctuaries and stop the Communists before they got into South Vietnam? The answer, of course, is that the politicians in Washington did not want to inflict any lasting damage on the Communists.

be won in six weeks if the United States officially declared war on North Vietnam, closed the port of Haiphong, invaded the North above the 17th Parallel, destroyed all targets of consequence in the North after warning the people to get out of the target areas, and warned the Soviet Union and Red China to halt all shipments of war supplies to the Hanoi regime or face a military response from us.

General LeMay, in his 1968 book *America Is In Danger*, repeated the same prescription for victory in Vietnam, saying that "we must see to it that Communist aggression results in Communist disaster. This we cannot obtain at the negotiating table." He said: "I believe that the course I suggest will end the war much sooner than will the policies we now pursue, with less loss of life on both sides. I am sure it will cost fewer American lives." Nearly 15,000 Americans were killed in combat in 1968, almost equalling the total number of combat dead in the previous seven years. That 30,000-man toll would almost double again before the last U.S. troops were withdrawn from Vietnam four and a half years later.

The dubious nature of the Johnson Administration's policies in Vietnam became even more obvious with the knowledge that the President was at the same time ordering strikes on Soviet-made SAM missile sites in North Vietnam *and* stepping up strategic trade with the Soviet Union. In October 1967, he had announced that hundreds of industrial items, formerly classified as "strategic," were now freed for export to the USSR and Communist Europe; that credits would be extended to the Red regimes in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, and Yugoslavia — all of which were supplying the sinews of war to their comrades in Hanoi; and that the Export-Import Bank would underwrite the Soviet purchase of $50 million worth of American machine tools to equip an automobile factory being built in the Soviet Union by the Fiat company of Italy.

It was, said General LeMay, like "attempting to dress and undress at the same time."

The Rules of Engagement

That American pilots in Vietnam were trapped in a no-win situation was bad enough; that they had to risk their lives every day to adhere to the most asinine rules and regulations was inexcusable. While Lyndon Johnson was President, he had to approve every target proposed for bombing. There were no targets approved at one point because LBJ was in the hospital and his aides did not want to bother him. "It's a daffy war in lots of ways," said one pilot who had been bombing the North. "Many times as we come in over Haiphong we'll see a Russian tanker steaming in or tied up at a pier. Its crew will wave to us and we'll wave back. But then for the next six weeks we chase individual oil trucks down camouflaged roads with maybe $30 million worth of airplanes. We lose some of those planes. And we lose men, too."

There were indications during the Vietnam War that American pilots were operating under crazy and ever-changing restrictions, but it was not until March 1985 that the American people finally learned the details of the unbelievably complex and lengthy series of rules that told the military what it could and could not do in South Vietnam, North Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. Senator Barry Goldwater, after persuading Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger to declassify the Rules of Engagement, took up 26 pages of the *Congressional Record* (March 6, 14, and 18, 1985) to summarize some of the most outrageous curbs on our military. Said Goldwater:

> These layers of restrictions, which were constantly changing and were almost impossible to memorize or understand, although it was required of our pilots, granted huge sanctuary areas to the enemy. When certain limits would at last be removed after repeated appeals by the Joint Chiefs, the reductions were made only in gradual steps and seldom were strong enough to serve our strategic ends. Numerous partial and total bombing halts interrupted the effectiveness of earlier bombing campaigns. Often, when limited extensions of target areas were granted, they were unexpectedly canceled and withdrawn shortly afterward.

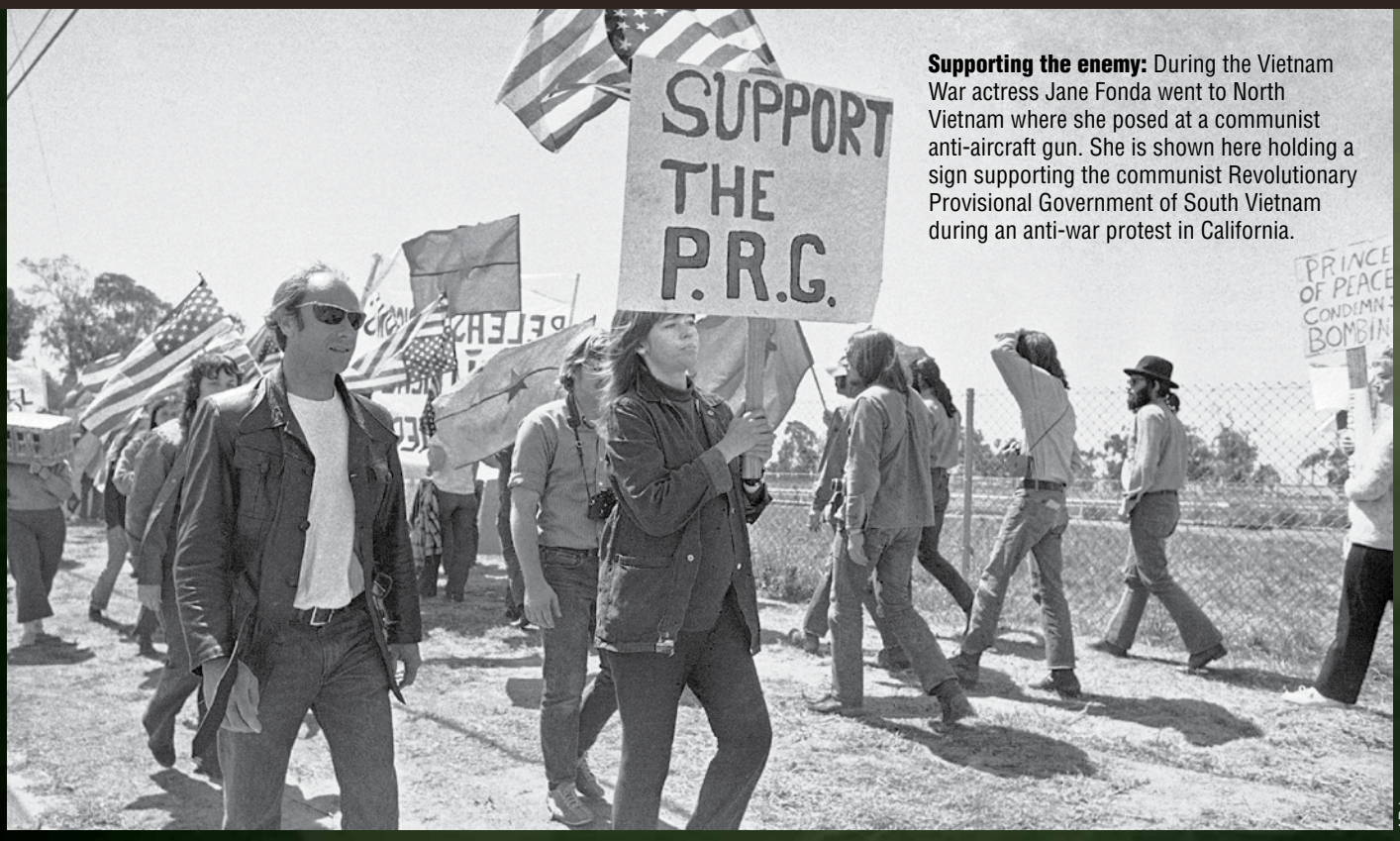
What were some of the rules?

• SAM missile sites could not be bombed while they were under construction, but only after they became operational.
• Pilots were not permitted to attack a Communist MiG sitting on the runway. The only time it could be attacked was after it was in the air, had been identified, and had showed hostile intentions. Even then, its base could not be bombed.
• Military truck depots located just over 200 yards from a road could not be destroyed. Enemy trucks on a road could be attacked, but if they drove off the road they were safe from bombing.
• If a South Vietnamese forward air controller was not on an aircraft, it was forbidden to bomb enemy troops during a fire fight even though the Reds were clearly visible and were being pointed at by an officer on the ground. The aircraft's bombs were dumped in the ocean.

On November 1, 1968, President Johnson announced the end of all bombing in North Vietnam. President Nixon continued that policy until 1972, when he ordered 12 days of strikes in the Hanoi-Haiphong area beginning on December 18th. In March of that year, Air Force General John Lavelle, trying to protect American forces, had ordered, on his own authority, air strikes against North Vietnamese airfields and missile sites. He was relieved of his command for violating the Rules of Engagement. During the same week he was recalled, however, the North Vietnamese launched a major offensive against South Vietnam, prompting President Nixon to suspend the rules Lavelle had been accused of violating. Nixon then ordered tactical air strikes against some of the same targets Lavelle had singled out.

The Battle for Laos

The fall of Laos to the Reds actually began in 1962 when the Kennedy Administration forced the anti-Communist government in that country to surrender control to a Communist-dominated coalition. I became involved in Laos in 1968 and left that beleaguered nation in 1970 with a broken heart. Some 400 Green Berets, members of the Army Special Forces, had come to Laos to assist in counterinsurgency operations against Communist guerrillas. These White Star Mobile Training Teams were joined later by Air Commandos, under the direction of General Harry "Heinie" Aderholt. Both groups fought with and on be-



Supporting the enemy: During the Vietnam War actress Jane Fonda went to North Vietnam where she posed at a communist anti-aircraft gun. She is shown here holding a sign supporting the communist Revolutionary Provisional Government of South Vietnam during an anti-war protest in California.

AP Images

half of the Hmong tribesmen (sometimes mistakenly called Meos), who were commanded by Major General Vang Pao, the most selfless combatant of Communists I have ever known.

It was Vang Pao, by the way, who stayed behind the lines and rescued victims of the bloody battle at Dien Bien Phu in 1954. It was also Vang Pao, supported by a group of forward air controllers known as the Ravens, whose leadership made the difference in so many battles and kept so many Americans from being killed, wounded, or captured. That the Hmong were fierce fighters for freedom was evident from a sign over the entrance to Vang Pao's headquarters: "To be born a free man is an accident; to live one a responsibility; to die one an obligation."

With the support of an Air Force that was guided by the Ravens, Vang Pao's troops fought the Communists to a standstill. The entire story is told in Christopher Robbins' book *The Ravens*. It is a book that will make you laugh as well as cry as it describes the sellout of Vang Pao and the bravery of Americans like Fred Platt, Frank Kricker, Tom Harris, and "Weird" Harold Mesaris.

Prince Mangkra Souvanna Phouma wanted Vang Pao to come to the Laotian capital of Vientiane when the sellout was about to take place, but the general stayed away because he knew the Communists were waiting to kill him. In a book published in France (*L'Agonie Du Laos*), the Prince recalled his last meeting with Vang Pao and said as he flew over Vang Pao's headquarters for the last time, he thought: "Before what was the theater of so much heroism I can understand the heartbreak of this great warrior faced with such a terrible alternative: to fight to the death, or to flee. But fight with what? There was nothing."

An incident mentioned in the Robbins book indicates that Vang Pao had no illusions about what was going to happen to his country:

> One night at dinner at Vang Pao's house, where John Mansur had gone as usual to be briefed for the following day's missions, the general shocked the young Raven. The talk had been about the poor way the war was going, and Vang Pao was arguing for a big push, a quick victory before it was too late. Mansur had made earnest, naive assurances that the Americans could always be relied upon, whatever might happen. They would stick by the Meo through thick and thin. Vang Pao sighed and shook his head. "John, you don't understand."
>
> "What don't I understand?"
>
> "One of these days your people — the American people — will make the American military quit helping us. And as soon as that happens the Communists are going to take my country."
>
> Mansur could not believe his ears. "General," he said emotionally, "we will *never* do that."
>
> Vang Pao smiled. "You do not understand, John."

Just as Vang Pao had predicted, the will of the American people to resist Communism in Southeast Asia was undermined by Communist-organized street demonstrations, media distortions and lies, weak-kneed politicians in both of the major political parties, and celebrities like Jane Fonda who went to North Vietnam in 1972 and posed next to Communist artillery pieces, broadcast propaganda into South Vietnam,

Our prayer must be that of Captain Jim Mulligan, former POW and author of *The Hanoi Commitment*: "Lord, save me from the politicians who have the nerve to engage me in war but who don't have the guts to let me win it."

and caused Americans to be tortured in the Hanoi Hilton. But this was to be expected from a woman who two years earlier had been quoted as saying: "I am a socialist. Therefore, I think we should strive toward a socialist society — all the way to Communism. I believe if everyone knew what the word meant, we'd all be on our knees praying for a Communist society."

The sellout of Southeast Asia was completed in 1975 as the Communists overran Indochina and added three once independent nations to its Evil Empire. In just 25 years, two no-win wars in Asia had claimed more than 112,000 American lives, had inflicted wounds on another 256,000 Americans, and had left more than 3,000 of our fighting men missing in action or in Communist prisoner of war camps. The political leaders of this nation have never been held accountable for their terrible betrayal of their fellow countrymen and of millions of brave people who looked to the United States for help.

Our prayer must be that of Captain Jim Mulligan, former POW and author of *The Hanoi Commitment*: "Lord, save me from the politicians who have the nerve to engage me in war but who don't have the guts to let me win it."

Some Personal Reflections

People have asked me why I went to Southeast Asia from 1966 to 1970 knowing that we would not be able to win that war. The best answer I can give is to quote one of my heroes, General George Patton, when he was asked about following Army regulations:

> Army regulations are written by those who have never been in battle.... Our only mission in combat is to win.... After the battles are over, those in the Pentagon can write about what we did wrong.... Battles are won by determined soldiers who do not spend a split second trying to remember what Army regulations had to say about what you should do when you are being shot at.

I went to Southeast Asia with the idea of breaking those regulations that would keep us from getting the job done — in combat and otherwise. I could not stay "Stateside" while many of my best friends were over there. At a recent reunion with Raven friends in San Antonio, we reminisced about our service in Southeast Asia. We talked about friends who were not there, those who had

50TH ANNIVERSARY

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY & THE VIETNAM WAR

ON APRIL 30, 1975, North Vietnamese tanks rolled through the gate of the Presidential Palace in Saigon, signifying the end of the Vietnam War. The conflict had exacted a devastating toll, claiming millions of lives, dividing the American public, and leaving a legacy of political and social upheaval. As we reflect on this solemn anniversary, it is crucial to examine the policies and decisions that shaped this costly chapter in history and the lessons they hold for future generations.

TO LEARN MORE

The John Birch Society | JBS.org

died or were missing in action. We reflected about men like Will Green, code name "Black Lion," who was killed by a mine in Laos, and Burr "Mr. Clean" Smith, who died of cancer a short time ago.

Fred Platt was at the reunion even though he is in constant pain from having been shot down 11 times. And I had to say something about Frank Kricker, who once asked me if I could get him into the Ravens. Frank hadn't been in Laos very long when he needed 40 stitches in his posterior and had his big toe shot off by enemy fire. I was back in the States by then and received the ugliest letter in the world from Frank for getting him into that predicament. He won the Silver Star for his work as a Raven.

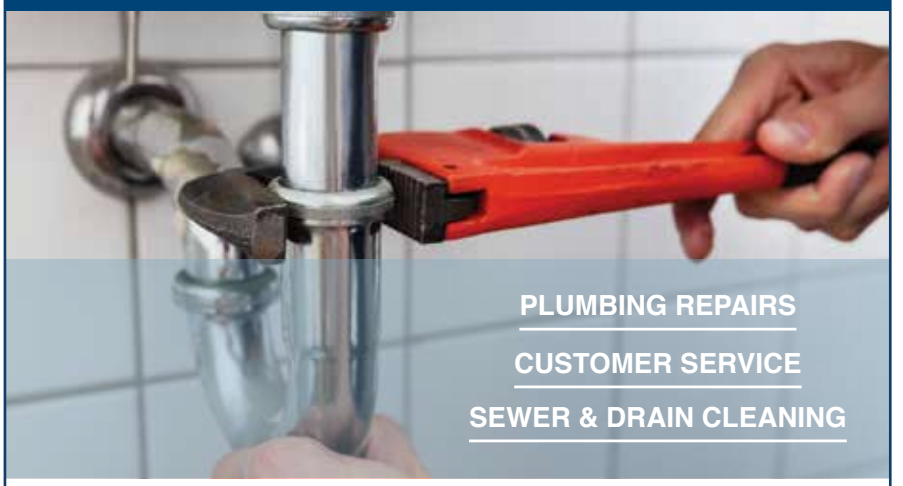
Chris Robbins did a terrific job in his book about the Ravens, although he was wrong in crediting me with winning three Bronze Stars in World War II. (I'm not that old, Chris.) It was indeed fitting that he dedicated his book not only to the memory of his father but also to "the Ravens who never flew home, and the Hmong who can never return."

No article about Vietnam would be complete without mentioning the courageous and selfless men of the Special Forces. We were sitting around Camp Jack L. Goodman in the Cholon Section of Saigon one night when a friend who had just come back from America told me bluntly: "Patrick, we're not losing the war over here; we're losing it back in the U.S." He went on to explain that, while walking through a shopping area in Oakland, California, he saw people manning a booth with a sign that said: "STOP Aid and Trade to our Marxist Enemies."

When those at the booth saw my friend's Green Beret, they apologized for not being able to do more for Americans fighting in Vietnam. They showed my pal a list of the critical materials that our government had approved for shipment to the Soviet Union, which in turn were being used to kill Americans in Vietnam. He then thanked them for all *they* were doing.

I asked my friend who these people were, and he said they were members of The John Birch Society, an organization he once thought was "kooky" but not anymore. I then told my buddy that I had been a member of the Society since 1962, when the Defense Department put a stop to educating the military about the dangers of Communism. My friend had some blank petitions opposing aid and trade with the Communists and said that he was going to get them signed and then when his tour was up in another six months, he was going back home to fight those who were helping the Communists take over the world.

Three months later, my friend was killed while on a classified reconnaissance mission with a Green Beret team. Thinking of him, and of all those mentioned in this article, as well as many unnamed friends whom I shall never see again, still brings tears to my eyes. Please don't ever forget those who sacrificed their lives in the never-ending quest for freedom. And renew your determination to preserve freedom in this great land and to spread that freedom to Southeast Asia and to all those once-free countries now held captive by Communist slavemasters. ■

Allstate Plumbing Inc.
FREE ESTIMATES • FAMILY OWNED
Serving the greater San Francisco Bay Area since 1993


Call Today! ☎ (800) 280-6594
www.AllStateServiceman.com

Sedation & Implant Dentistry
Periodontics & Implantology
General, Cosmetic, and Sedation Dentistry
(651) 538-6472
St. Paul, MN
www.toothbuilder.com

RAFFIN
CONSTRUCTION CO.

RAFFIN
PROPERTIES

Serving the Chicagoland area for over 90 years

744 East 113th St. • Chicago, IL 60628 • (773) 785-3055

www.raffinconstruction.com

The John Birch Society ON VIETNAM

Cut and run? Continue the status quo? The JBS advocated a third alternative during the war years, while calling for a complete cessation of aid to "our Communist enemies."

by Robert Welch

During the Vietnam War era, Americans were presented two choices regarding the conduct of the war: Maintain the status quo, which meant fighting a long, protracted, costly conflict with victory an elusive goal; or cut and run.

There was, however, a third alternative that Congress and the mainstream media largely ignored. That alternative was to win the war quickly and then get out. Robert Welch, the founder of The John Birch Society, expressed this position in the conclusion of a widely distributed essay entitled "The Truth About Vietnam": "In this writer's opinion, we should never have become involved in Vietnam at all. But ... we are too deeply involved today to have any honorable way out except through victory. It should be our determination not to escalate this war, nor to prolong it, nor to muddle through it, but to win it*." (Emphasis in original.)*

Written in early 1967, that article contained important insights about the Vietnam War that are all the more amazing when read 58 years later. The following material is excerpted from this extraordinary piece. (The full text is available at jbs.org/vietnam/the-truth-about-vietnam.)

Why fight 'em in Vietnam and help 'em everywhere else? And if you do not believe we *are* helping the Communists everywhere else, you need only to read your daily papers. In fact, the Administration is right now moving heaven and earth to bring about more so-called trade with Soviet Russia and all of its satellites. Most of this trade turns out, in any final analysis, to be simply gifts in one form or another from the United States. Yet Moscow and these satellites are supplying most of the war matériel to be used by the Viet Cong in Vietnam against our soldiers there, while Washington helps to keep these Communist regimes in power and in position to do so.

* * *

[O]ur boys in Vietnam are being killed by Russian bullets fired from Russian guns, while the Johnson Administration sends the Soviets wheat to feed those who are making the guns and the bullets. [During the war, members of The John Birch Society collected about two million signatures on a petition to Congress to "stop, promptly and completely, giving aid in any form, directly or indirectly, to our Communist enemies."]

* * *

How is it possible that supposedly mortal enemies, namely the Viet Cong and ourselves, while locked in a so-called battle to the death, can keep on declaring time out for holidays, huddles, and repairs? What kind of a war is this? In a football game there can be time out because the conference or the league controls both sides, and the enemies are not really enemies but friendly rivals who are doing it all for sport. Is some similar conference or league running both sides of this war, and is it all just a show? If so, have our boys who are maimed and killed been let in on this fact?

* * *

Are we actually at war in Vietnam, or aren't we? In one breath we are given to understand that this is simply a "police action," within a friendly nation, to help the government and people of that nation protect themselves from Communist guerrillas. (Communist guerrillas, incidentally,

Robert Welch

The New American

whom we — meaning the Roosevelt Administration — set up in business under Ho chi Minh, in 1944 and 1945, with American money, equipment, and support.) In the next breath, the President himself tells us that "this is war." And we now read about more and more bombing raids by American planes over the territory and capital of a supposedly independent nation, North Vietnam. But if this is war, then what happened to Article I, Section 8, Paragraph 11 of the United States Constitution which decrees that only Congress can put this nation into war?

* * *

Since we are in a war, even though an undeclared war, why do we impose, or allow to be imposed, so many incredible handicaps on our men who are trying to fight it? Our bombers are regularly required to fly dangerous missions with only a small fraction of the effective bomb load they

could carry. To enter North Vietnam they must fly a specified route, well known to the enemy, which makes the operation so dangerous that the pilots call this route "slaughter alley." In bombing the supply route to the Viet Cong, known as the Ho chi Minh trail, through Laos, our bombers are required to confine their attacks to targets within 204 feet from the trail itself. So the Communists, when they see American planes coming, merely pull aside until they are 205 feet from the road, and figuratively thumb their noses at the helpless American pilots.

* * *

We first went into Vietnam, or made it theoretically our protégé nation, in 1954, by throwing the French out and putting the Communists in. As so-called "observers" at Geneva in 1954, but really running the show, we turned the top half of the country over directly and officially to the Communists, and set up an anti-Communist government in the bottom half, exactly as we had done in Korea in 1948. In both cases we thus prepared the way for the Communist aggression from the northern part into the southern part, and for the war that would follow, exactly as the Communists were already planning. There was a tremendous difference in the caliber and quality of the two governments, of South Korea and South Vietnam respectively. But both were eventually to be overthrown by conniving from Washington, when they had served their purposes as foils in the longrange Communist strategy.

* * *

Vietnam is almost exactly half way around the world from Washington, D.C. It would be impossible for the United States, in fighting a war, to have longer or more difficult or more costly supply lines for its troops.... While the length, size, and complexity of the supply lines will make it easy for Communist traitors at a hundred points along those lines subtly to sabotage and misdirect and confuse the equipment our boys need in the field; and to do so a great deal more extensively than in the worst of our similar experiences so far. These disadvantages to ourselves, and advantages to the Communists, would be almost overwhelming. Is this why Vietnam has been picked for the crucial battleground?

* * *

If this Administration or any Administration really and truly did want to fight the Communists and save some other nation or people, why not run the beasts out of Cuba instead of Vietnam? Cuba was really our protégé nation, and for a much longer period of time than the present gang in Washington have pretended to hold South Vietnam in that esteem. Cuba is right at our doorstep, and a Communist regime there is infinitely more damaging and more dangerous to ourselves than one in South Vietnam, on the other side of the world. For a war in and over Cuba, and even if you give consideration to some nonsense about the Soviets coming into it, most of the advantages, as to supply lines and style of fighting, would be with us instead of with our enemies. Can you or anybody else name one reason why we should not be fighting the Communists, if at all, in Cuba instead of in Vietnam? Or do the powers which control Washington want us to be fighting only where we are at the greatest possible disadvantage, and where our inability to win can be made to seem plausible?

* * *

History shows clearly that [U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam] Henry Cabot Lodge played a leading role in turning Algeria over to the Communists. He has been similarly helpful to the Communists in many other times and places. History also shows with equal clarity that [OSS/CIA operative] Edward Lansdale played a leading role in originally driving the French out of Vietnam to make it easier for Ho chi Minh and his Communists to seize the country. Yet for the past couple of years the direction of our war in Vietnam, supposedly against the Communists, has been virtually in the hands of those two men. Why? With all of the patriotic Americans there are to choose from, why would any Administration which really wanted to stop Communist aggression in Vietnam put our effort in the hands of men who have always been willing to yield to, or even actively to support, Communist aggression?

* * *

The American people always have been, and still are, willing to make more sacrifices, and to put up with more demands by their government, for the sake of fighting Communism, than for any other purpose. The two greatest aids to the worldwide Communist advance since 1945 have been the American foreign aid program, and the United Nations. Yet both were sold to us as *means of opposing Communism*. And these tremendous drains on our national resources and national sovereignty were accepted for that reason.

* * *

One hundred percent government *is* Communism. A growing obsession on the part of the American people with an interminable, ever larger, and ever more horrible war, could enable this or any future Administration not only to increase taxes and controls and government paternalism to fantastic levels. But it could increase its arbitrary powers and its detailed reach over the lives of all individual citizens, and suppress mercilessly all opposition to its policies and its decrees, until the tentacles of this central government in the United States would be hardly distinguishable from those of the central government in Moscow or in Peking. The conditions and the time would then be ripe for the long-planned worldwide merger. Have all the steps toward this hundred percent government already been plotted and timed? Are the current proposals for greatly increased Social Security payments, for an enormously expanded budget, and for increased powers and agencies of the federal government on every side, simply taken from the blueprint which has been prepared long in advance?

* * *

In this writer's opinion, we should never have become involved in Vietnam at all. But, regardless of how we got there, or who put us there, we are too deeply involved today to have any honorable way out except through victory. It should be our determination not to escalate this war, nor to prolong it, nor to muddle through it, but *to win it*. A great American once said: "In war, there is no substitute for victory!" This is certainly one time and place in the history of our nation when we must not even consider any substitute. *Victory, Then Peace!* must be our slogan and our goal. ■

QUICK QUOTES

"The war that France fought to retain Indochina within the French Community and free from communism terminated on May 7, 1954, with the fall of the fortified position of Dien Bien Phu, after five months of heroic resistance.... It was established that a one-hour strike by American planes could have saved the beleaguered garrison and changed the course of history. On five separate occasions such a strike was discussed, but each time reasons were found to rule out American rescue from the air."

Hilaire du Berrier *from the foreword of his 1965 book* Background to Betrayal: The Tragedy of Vietnam *(See our review on page 39).*

"[U.S. Secretary of State John Foster] Dulles fathered SEATO with the deliberate purpose, as he explained to me, of providing the U.S. President with legal authority to intervene in Indochina. When Congress approved SEATO it signed the first of a series of blank checks yielding authority over Vietnam policy."

C.L. Sulzberger, The New York Times*, 1966, as quoted in James Perloff's* The Shadows of Power

"Since when is the future of southeast Asia something for an American President to decide all by himself? Mr. President, the future of southeast Asia is not the exclusive property of the Presidency and not even the exclusive property of the United States."

Senator **Wayne Morse** *(D-Ore.) in remarks addressed to President Lyndon Johnson entered in the* Congressional Record*, June 3, 1964*

"Weapons of the Polish armed forces are being shipped from Stettin harbor in Poland in ever increasing quantities to North Vietnam harbors.... While on one side of the Stettin harbor American wheat is being unloaded from freighters, on the other side of the same harbor weapons are loaded which are being used against American soldiers."

Chicago Tribune, *December 26, 1966*

"The war against North Vietnam can be irrevocably won in six weeks.... The remaining Vietcong guerrillas in the South could be conquered within six months.... It may go on for another five, ten or more years — if it continues to be fought as at present.... We are fighting a war in a weak-sister manner that is unprecedented throughout the history of military science."

Lloyd Mallan, *editor of* Science & Mechanics *magazine, March 1968*

"*Insiders* of the Conspiracy, in our government in Washington, had spent years in breaking down, through every possible form of betrayal, coercion, and deception, any possibility of the South Vietnamese themselves being able to maintain any effective resistance. At least ten percent of the population of South Vietnam has been or will be killed before subjugation of the rest is entirely satisfactory to the Communist tyrants, and *peace* will have arrived."

From "Our Bicentennial Message" by **Robert Welch**, *JBS* Bulletin*, July 1976*

— Compiled by Rebecca Terrell

Cosamin®

for JOINT HEALTH*

helps promote joint comfort so you can **enjoy life's special moments***

NEW LOOK

#1 RESEARCHED GLUCOSAMINE/ CHONDROITIN BRAND▲

SAVE 20%

Enter Code **LIBERTY20** to receive 20% off at checkout.

Visit **https://www.nutramaxstore.com**
Discount will be applied at checkout.

nutramax LABORATORIES
CONSUMER CARE, INC.

MADE IN USA
FROM GLOBALLY SOURCED INGREDIENTS

* THESE STATEMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN EVALUATED BY THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION. THIS PRODUCT IS NOT INTENDED TO DIAGNOSE, TREAT, CURE, OR PREVENT ANY DISEASE.

▲Based on U.S. studies published in peer-reviewed journals, the Cosamin® brand is the most researched glucosamine/chondroitin sulfate brand.

110.1053.01

AP Images

THE OKC BOMBING COVERUP, 30 YEARS LATER

Despite the long-held official narrative, the evidence shows that multiple John Does carried out the terror attack using multiple bombs, and that the government had prior knowledge.

by Paul Dragu

Thirty years ago, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, was rocked by one of the deadliest attacks on U.S. soil. On the morning of April 19, 1995, devastating explosions tore through the Alfred P. Murrah Building, killing 168 people, 19 of them children, and injuring many more.

Despite early contradictory reports, the official story remains to this day that a Ryder moving truck loaded with some 4,800 pounds of ammonium nitrate and fuel oil (ANFO), driven and parked by one Timothy McVeigh, who had an accomplice in Kansas named Terry Nichols, was used to carry out the act. But the three most important elements of that story — *one bomb* explosion detonated by *one driver* who carried out a *surprise* lethal attack — are almost assuredly wrong. Worse, a mountain of evidence suggests the official story's inaccuracy is the result of a coverup that included some complicity by elements within the federal government.

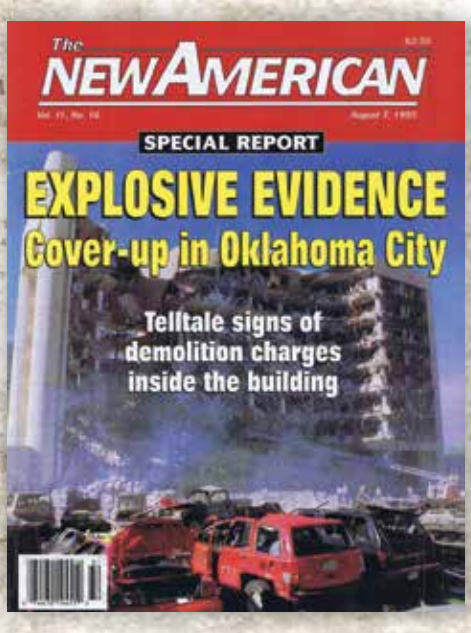
The New American magazine produced some of the most in-depth and contrarian reporting on the OKC bombing. *TNA* senior editor William F. Jasper spoke to numerous experts and witnesses on the ground, and he pored over piles of documents in a quest to bring about as much clarity and truth as he could about what happened that day.

In this article, we provide a brief overview of *TNA's* coverage of the OKC bombing.

Multiple Bombs

Immediately after the bombing, local news outlets broadcast reports indicating that multiple undetonated bombs

Paul Dragu is a senior editor for The New American.



GOP PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS
The NEW AMERICAN
Our OKC Bombing Investigation Continues
Did Federal Agents Have Prior Knowledge?

were found in the Murrah Building. A YouTube video compilation of clips from local news reports is still available. But it didn't take long before the feds took over the investigation and began airbrushing out any mention of multiple bombs.

The earliest and most compelling challenge to the "one bomb, one bomber" theory came from Brigadier General Benton K. Partin (USAF, Retired), an expert with exceptional credentials. Partin's 31-year military career included command of the Air Force Armaments Technology Laboratory and direct involvement in the research and development of many of weapons systems. One month after the bombing, General Partin delivered a preliminary analysis of the event to members of Congress. "From all the evidence I have seen in the published material," Partin testified, "I can say with a high level of confidence that the damage pattern on the reinforced concrete superstructure could not possibly have been attained from the single truck bomb without supplementing demolition charges at some of the reinforced column bases." In the report, Partin discredited the prosecution's lone-bomb thesis with findings from the forensic evidence indicating that demolition charges were planted and used inside the Murrah Building.

A mountain of evidence, documents, records, eyewitness testimony, and authoritative support fortifying General Partin's thesis came out later. Cate McCauley, executive director of Key's Oklahoma Bombing Investigation Committee, told *TNA*, "What is becoming daily more obvious is that the federal investigation went off track very early on, and nowhere is this more blatantly obvious than in the claim that the truck bomb brought down the Murrah Building. Science and the forensic evidence overwhelmingly contradict this claim. However, aside from your magazine, no one in the media or the government has really done the hard work of explaining and exposing this travesty. What we have been seeing for three years is science versus silence."

Partin's thesis was supported by a list of other experts, including Samuel Cohen, the renowned physicist who worked on the Manhattan Project and invented the "neutron bomb"; Dr. Frederick Hansen, a professor of physics at the University of Oregon whose distinguished career included professorships in engineering, aeronautics, and chemistry at MIT; Dr. Roger A. Raubach, a chemist who taught on the research faculty of Stanford University and served as the technical director of a chemical company; and Dr. Ernest B. Paxson, an engineer with more than 30 years' experience in civilian and defense-related projects.

Moreover, seismic evidence supported the multiple-bomb theory. Two seismograms were recorded at the Omniplex Science Museum in Oklahoma City four miles north of the Murrah Building and the Oklahoma Geological Survey (OGS) station near the University of Oklahoma in Norman, 16 miles south of the blast site. Both seismograms showed two separate wave trains that appeared to be the result of two separate explosions.

If internal charges were, in fact, used, it would have been impossible for McVeigh to have carried out the operation on his own, as the official story claims.

Multiple John Does

The OKC bombing was supposedly a "domestic terrorist act" carried out by two ex-Army, anti-government rebels. On August 10, 1995, a federal grand jury handed down a three-count indictment charging Timothy McVeigh, Terry Nichols, and "others unknown" with the bombing. McVeigh and Nichols were convicted in

The New American
THAT FREEDOM SHALL NOT PERISH
More Pieces to the OKC Puzzle
The New American
THAT FREEDOM SHALL NOT PERISH
Two Years Later
As the second anniversary approaches of America's "deadliest terrorist attack," federal prosecutors are jeopardizing the case against Timothy McVeigh while his fellow murderers walk free.
The New American
THAT FREEDOM SHALL NOT PERISH
Good Cop, Bad Cop: The FBI Story
FBI

a court of law, the former having been officially executed and cremated since. But as to the "others," they forever evaded justice and have been memory-holed.

TNA looked through a superabundance of evidence — in the form of government documents, government informants' testimonies, and the accounts of numerous eyewitnesses — concerning other individuals and vehicles connected with McVeigh and OKC.

TNA reports included evidence that implicated members of the White Aryan Resistance and other neo-Nazi groups operating out of a "Christian Identity" compound known as Elohim City in eastern Oklahoma. However, *TNA* also carried out a parallel investigation into equally compelling evidence indicating McVeigh, Nichols, and their Elohim co-conspirators were subcontractors, and perhaps planned fall guys, for Middle Eastern terrorist organizations with operational cells throughout the United States. Some of that evidence included:

• An FBI All Points Bulletin was issued after the blast for all law enforcement to be on the lookout for a late model Chevrolet pickup "occupied by Middle Eastern subjects" seen fleeing the blast area "at a high rate of speed."

• At least four witnesses said they saw young men of Middle Eastern appearance acting in a suspicious manner in front of, or in the immediate vicinity of, the Murrah Building before and right after the explosion.

• Prior to the bombing, a confidential informant for the federal government went on record warning of a conspiracy — of which he was a member — involving Middle Eastern and domestic terrorists to blow up federal buildings. He provided important, detailed information about the attack.

• On April 19, 1995, the head of Saudi Arabia's Intelligence Service called the CIA's former chief of Counterterrorism Operations to report that Saddam Hussein had hired seven Pakistani terrorists to bomb targets in the United States, one of which was the Murrah Building.

• Before being cowed into silence, elected officials and terrorist experts pointed out that militant leaders of the terrorist groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad had addressed a radical Islamic conference in Oklahoma City, and that the militants' statements had been recorded in a PBS documentary.

Early in the investigation, *TNA* obtained a copy of the sworn affidavit of FBI Special Agent Henry C. Gibbons relaying the testimony of an eyewitness near the scene of the explosion who "saw two individuals running from the area of the Federal Building toward a brown Chevrolet truck prior to the explosion." "The individuals," says the FBI affidavit, "were described as males, of possible Middle Eastern descent, approximately 6 feet tall, with athletic builds."

The eyewitness testimony used for Agent Gibbons' affidavit, together with testimony from other eyewitnesses, provided the basis for the FBI's All Points Bulletin that was picked up and played by local radio and television stations. But without explanation, the FBI pulled the Mideast APB on the afternoon of April 19. Nothing more was ever reported concerning the men, the search, or the vehicles.

Prior Knowledge

On September 12, 1996, television station KFOR, Oklahoma City's NBC affiliate, broadcast interviews with three witnesses who said that ATF agents admitted to them to being tipped in advance of the bombing. The witnesses' identities were shielded in "shadow" interviews.

One of the witnesses worked only a

New American
THAT FREEDOM SHALL NOT PERISH
CONSPIRACY?
Carol Howe
gave federal agents prior knowledge of the Oklahoma bombing. You'll be shocked at their response.
New American
THAT FREEDOM SHALL NOT PERISH
CONSPIRACY UNMASKED?
Proof of Multiple Bombs

few blocks from the Murrah Building and rushed to the explosion site minutes after the blast to look for his wife, who worked in the building. He knew many in the ATF because his wife worked near them in another federal agency. The man spotted an ATF agent he didn't recognize and asked him to contact other ATF agents to see if his wife had been found. The witness told KFOR that the ATF agent "started getting a little bit nervous. He tried reaching someone on a two-way radio, [but] couldn't get anybody. I told him I wanted an answer right then. He said they were in debriefing, that none of the agents had been in there. They'd been tipped by their pagers not to come in to work that day. Plain as day out of his mouth. Those were the words he said."

There was also evidence suggesting the Oklahoma City Fire Department had advance warning of the attack. Glenn Wilburn, grandfather of two bombing victims, heard several reports concerning FBI tipoffs to the fire department before the blast and decided to check them out for himself. He went down the hall to the office of Chief Dispatcher Harvey Weathers and asked if that was the case. "Harvey said yes, they had received a message from the FBI on the Friday before the bombing that they should be on alert," Wilburn told *TNA*.

On December 1, 1995, U.S. District Judge Wayne Alley was removed as the presiding judge in the bombing case shortly after it was revealed that he had received warning of stepped-up security and increased concern over bomb threats before the attack.

Another puzzling hint of federal prior knowledge comes from the U.S. Marshals Service. A little more than three weeks before the bombing, the Newark, New Jersey, *Star-Ledger* reported that "U.S. law enforcement authorities obtained information that Islamic terrorists were planning suicide attacks against federal courthouses and government installations in the United States. The attacks, it is feared, would be designed to attract worldwide press attention through the murder of innocent victims."

Especially alarming is the revelation that a federal informant delivered a very specific and accurate warning to U.S. Justice Department officials less than two weeks before the deadly blast. A U.S. attorney in Denver confirmed that his office previously granted immunity to a man who claimed to have information about a plot to bomb a federal building.

This is but a fraction of the circumstantial evidence *TNA* reported on indicating prior knowledge of the attack.

The Overlooked Coverup

Whatever happened that tragic day, many questions remain three decades later. Who else was involved? Why were so many warnings ignored? Why did so many elements of the federal government work so hard to push the one-bomb, one-bomber narrative? Was it to cover up for ineptitude — or a false-flag attack? And how high up the government ladder did this coverup reach?

The American people have changed a lot since the OKC bombing. Over the last decade, the public has developed a healthy skepticism, and in some cases, outright disbelief, of government narratives — thanks, in part to the democratization of information via the internet as well as the blatant government overreach during the Covid plandemic. It is time the public demand an accurate account of what really happened on April 19, 1995. ■

For more information about the Oklahoma City bombing, go to thenewamerican.com/okc/

SENOX®
CORPORATION

Serving the Seamless Gutter Industry Since 1972

Quality Products

Quality starts at the beginning. From the selection of materials, through the painting process, and on through manufacturing, producing the highest quality part is our first priority.

Industry Leaders

Since 1972, we've been providing innovative solutions to the seamless gutter industry through expanded product lines, quality control, and the most State-of-the-Art equipment.

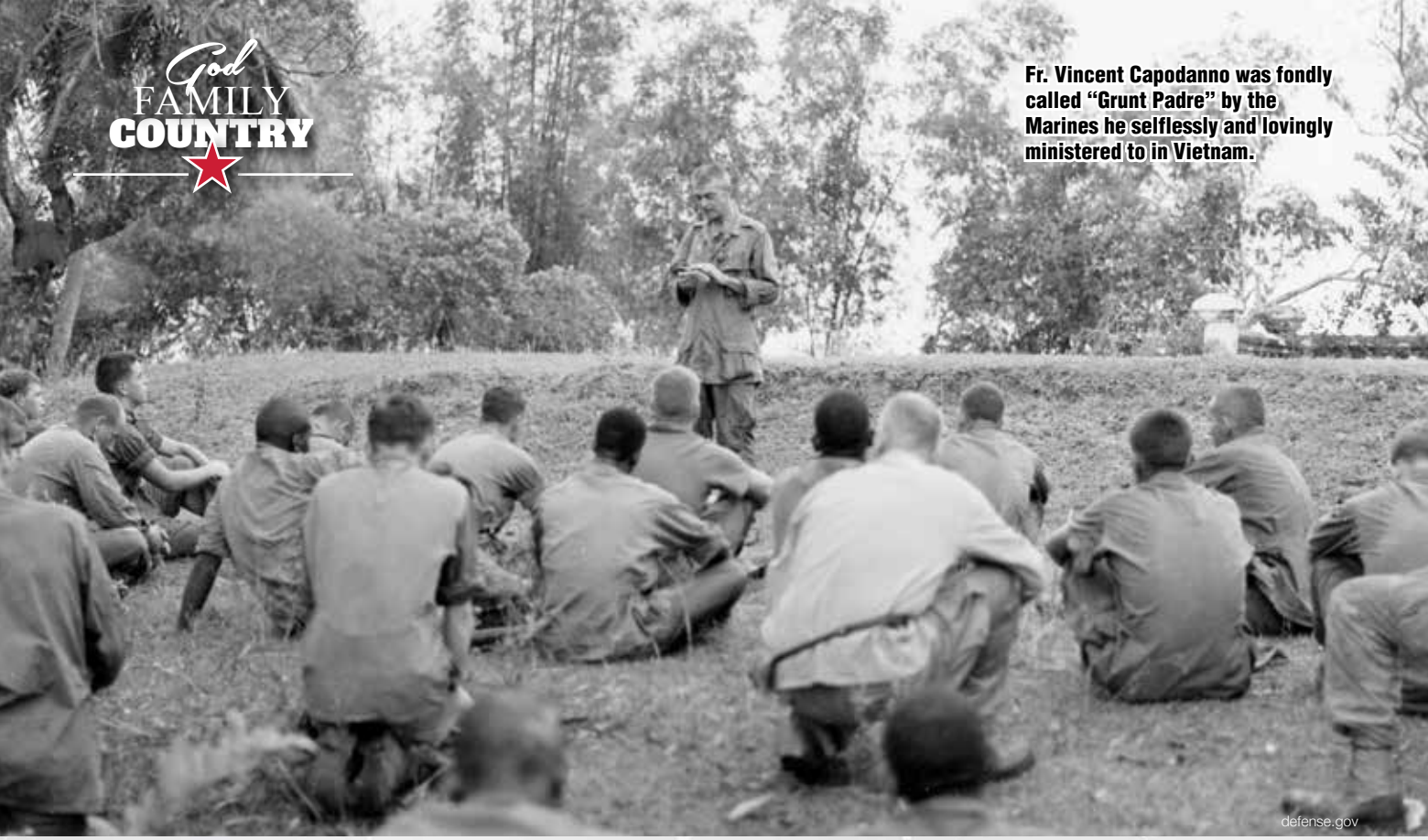
Superior Service

We are fully committed to fulfilling the needs of seamless gutter contractors every day with reliable parts, coupled with quick and accurate service.

"We are called the nation of inventors. And we are. We could still claim that title and wear its loftiest honors if we had stopped with the first thing we ever invented, which was human liberty."

– Mark Twain

www.SENOX.com **866-522-1696**



Fr. Vincent Capodanno was fondly called "Grunt Padre" by the Marines he selflessly and lovingly ministered to in Vietnam.

defense.gov

VIETNAM'S GODLY GRUNT

by Rebecca Terrell

The television series M*A*S*H unfortunately painted the timid figure of Father Mulcahy as a textbook military chaplain. Rugged and fearless are better descriptives of the non-fiction versions. Nine of them in U.S. history have been awarded the Medal of Honor, the military's highest and most prestigious decoration, a tribute to extraordinary bravery. Even the U.S. president must salute a Medal of Honor recipient.

Three of those nine Medals of Honor went to chaplains who served in Vietnam. Army Major Charles Watters died while administering last rites and rescuing the wounded during the Battle of Dak To on November 19, 1967. Less than a month later and despite sustaining severe wounds, Army Captain Charles Liteky carried more than 20 men to safety under heavy fire from an enemy force that greatly outnumbered his unit. His fellows said his bravery was the inspiration they needed to repel the enemy.

Those two followed in the footsteps of a fellow priest who had given his life on a battlefield earlier that year. Along with the Medal of Honor, Navy Lieutenant Vincent Capodanno also earned the Navy Bronze Star, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star, and the Purple Heart. Today, military chapels in Vietnam, Japan, Taiwan, and the United States are named for him, as are various military buildings, schools, streets, and memorials, including a large statue at Fort Wadsworth (facing page) near his boyhood home on Staten Island. His parents' hometown of Gaeta, Italy, boasts a sculpture in his honor in the Piazza Capodanno. The first ship in the U.S. fleet to receive a papal blessing, granted on the 14th anniversary of his death in 1981, was the USS *Capodanno*, named in his honor.

"He's listed as one of America's greatest men," his eldest brother, James, said in remarks to Michael McWeeney of *Staten Island Advance*. "His service was all voluntary…. He was one great brother, one great man, and one great Marine — and a real priest."

Father Capodanno grew up during the Great Depression, the youngest of nine children of Italian immigrants. His father died in 1939, on Vincent's 10th birthday; his three brothers served in World War II. In 1958, he answered God's call to the missionary priesthood. After several years in Taiwan and Hong Kong, he requested permission to join the Navy Chaplain Corps. Commissioned on December 28, 1965, he immediately volunteered for duty in Vietnam.

Once there, the "Grunts" (young, enlisted men) became his sons. He ate, slept, and lived as they did so that he could face their same hardships. Biographer Stephen DiGiovanni recorded that Capodanno once said, "I understand their trials better if I accept the same burdens they do." This earned him the love and loyalty of his men as well as his moniker: Grunt Padre.

That's also the name of a documentary produced by 10th Le-

Rebecca Terrell is a senior editor of The New American.

gion Pictures, which quotes several Marines who knew him. During his tour of duty, one had written home, "Wherever the Marines are, Father Capodanno is there — in the water or in the mud up to his knees."

What made him extraordinary was that chaplains normally did not accompany troops on patrols and missions. As noncombatants under the Geneva Conventions, they do not carry weapons. However, Lieutenant R.J. Marnell said, "You had to watch him like a hawk, as it was not uncommon to see a group of Marines running to get on a helicopter to go into battle, and all of a sudden this figure comes out of nowhere. No rifle — just his priest gear — and jumping in the helicopter before anybody could catch him."

Once on the front, he would relentlessly cross battlefields under heavy fire to administer last rites to the dying and drag the wounded to safety. Marines reported his unwaveringly calm demeanor. On one occasion, he returned with a flak jacket shredded by grenade fragments, yet he was unharmed. DiGiovanni records him as having said, "I want to be available in the event anything serious occurs; to learn firsthand the problems of the men, and to give them moral support, to comfort them with my presence."

After his first tour of duty he requested an extension for one simple reason: "I do not wish to leave."

"The last time I saw Father Vincent, he came home on leave in 1966," James remembered. "That last leave his mind wasn't here. He was drawn. He didn't look like himself. His hair was getting gray.… And all he thought about was those fellas — the Marines over in Vietnam."

He returned to them with the same dogged stamina as before. Then, on Labor Day 1967, roughly one month before the close of his second tour, the Viet Cong ambushed his battalion. His Medal of Honor citation reads:

> Lt. Capodanno left the relative safety of the company command post and ran through an open area raked with fire, directly to the beleaguered platoon. Disregarding the intense enemy small-arms, automatic-weapons, and mortar fire, he moved about the battlefield administering last rites to the dying and giving medical aid to the wounded. When an exploding mortar round inflicted painful multiple wounds to his arms and legs, and severed a portion of his right hand, he steadfastly refused all medical aid. Instead, he directed the corpsmen to help their wounded comrades and, with calm vigor, continued to move about the battlefield as he provided encouragement by voice and example to the valiant marines.

James got the rest of the story from a New Jersey Marine who had been wounded on that battlefield. "All of a sudden he felt a hand on his head in the midst of battle. 'It was your brother. When he put his hand on my head, everything stopped and became pleasant, like there was no war going on for that second. And he said, *You're going to be alright*.' Then he ran over to this other fellow that was screaming, to assist him."

"The enemy was in the thicket not too far away, and he opened up his machine gun and killed Father Vincent," James said. He died attempting to save that corpsman from the gunfire that ended his life.

Word quickly spread of the priest's death. James said the Marine told him that "it was like a shroud came over the whole Second Marine Division. He said fellows were crying, and everything was quiet."

Stateside, James heard on the nightly news that a Catholic chaplain had been killed that day, but the name was withheld until the next of kin were notified. "And, of course, on Tuesday, the officers came and they told me," James recalled, wiping tears away. "I've been crying since."

"There's not a day goes by that I don't feel him," veteran Raymond Harton told EWTN News. Harton had been hit by a sniper's bullet on the same Labor Day battlefield. He fell, but when he opened his eyes, Father was leaning over him. "When he touched me, when I thought I was dying, there was a calmness that came over me that I've never felt before or since. He said, 'Stay calm, Ray. Someone will be here to help us soon, and God is with all here today.'" ■

STAY INFORMED ON
THE ISSUES THAT AFFECT
FREEDOM!

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

TNA

The New American
Follow us on Social Media
www.TheNewAmerican.com

U.N.EARTHING THE CO_2 PIPELINE

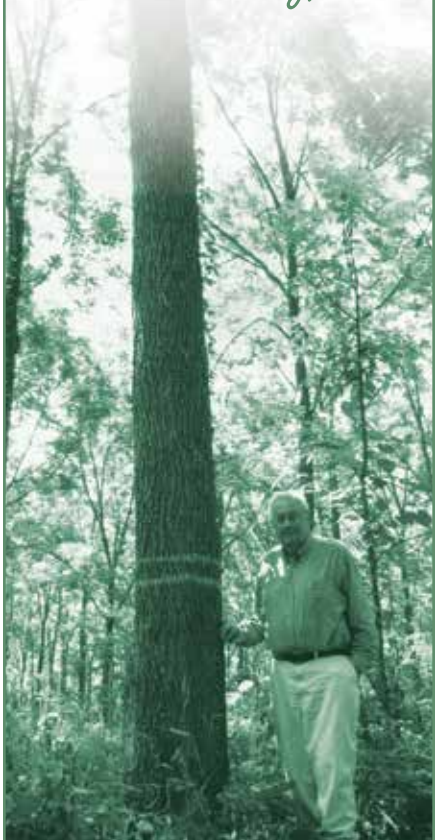
PREMIERES
APRIL 22

This eye-opening documentary goes beyond the pipelines and reveals the UN's sinister agenda to depopulate large swaths of the earth under the guise of "saving Mother Earth."

SYG

The John Birch Society
STAND YOUR GROUND STUDIOS

Pence Walnut Plantation
and
Hensler Nursery, Inc.



One of many 27-year-old *Superb* trees

Now offering for sale
"Pence Select"
Walnut Seedlings

The 44,000 trees planted in 1989 are from a highly diverse genetic pool. The seedlings available to you will be from nuts gathered from the best 200 trees!

This is an exceptional opportunity to secure superior quality Black Walnut seedlings!

For more information contact:
Hugh B. Pence
1420 Adams St. • Lafayette, IN 47905
Ph: (765) 742-4269 • Cell: (765) 430-6520
E-mail: hughbpence@gmail.com

The Second Amendment Is Not Subject to Judicial Repeal

by Joe Wolverton II, J.D.

Thomas/Adobe Stock

March 26, the Supreme Court of the United States once again demonstrated that black robes are no defense against yellow spines. In a stunning 7-2 decision, the Court upheld the Biden administration's authoritarian attempt to regulate so-called ghost guns, surrendering yet another critical inch of the Constitution to the ever-hungry Leviathan in Washington.

Justice Neil Gorsuch, whom many mistakenly believed to be a friend of the Constitution, authored the opinion, breezily dismissing objections to the ATF's extralegal edict as unworthy of serious consideration. Gorsuch wrote that the Court had "no trouble rejecting" arguments made by the plaintiffs — arguments rooted in the plain text of the Constitution and the historical understanding of the right to keep and bear arms.

If the Founders had been so cavalier with tyranny, there never would have been a Lexington Green or a Concord Bridge.

Make no mistake: This ruling is not about "kits" or "untraceable weapons." This is about raw federal power — a bureaucratic agency, the ATF, with no legislative authority, inventing regulations that infringe on a right the Constitution declares "shall not be infringed." And now, that usurpation has been sanctified by the very branch of government that was intended to be the Constitution's final guardian.

Let's be clear: The Second Amendment is not subject to judicial repeal.

It is not up for reinterpretation by unelected judges. It is not subordinate to the fears of bureaucrats or the fantasies of tyrants in three-letter agencies. It is a natural right — pre-existing government, pre-existing the Constitution, and not granted by any man. It was recognized and protected by the Founders because they understood that disarmed citizens are the surest sign of despotic rule.

As George Mason noted during the Virginia Ratifying Convention, "To disarm the people is the best and most effectual way to enslave them."

And as Thomas Jefferson warned, "No free man shall ever be debarred the use of arms."

But in 2025, the Supreme Court decided that liberty may be managed by fiat, that rights may be regulated by regulation, and that so-called ghost guns are somehow more dangerous than the ghosts of tyranny that now haunt the chambers of our government.

The ATF's rule redefines weapon parts as firearms themselves — an act of linguistic legerdemain that would make Orwell shudder. By such logic, a block of aluminum could soon be declared a firearm if it might one day be machined into a lower receiver. And now, seven justices have given their blessing to this brazen act of bureaucratic sorcery.

This is not just an attack on the Second Amendment — it is an attack on the very concept of limited government.

When unelected bureaucrats can redefine words in a statute to expand their own power, and when the Court shrugs and says "we have no trouble with this," we have left the Constitution behind. We have entered the realm of regulatory despotism, where rights are granted at the whim of the ruling class and withdrawn just as easily.

Our Founders didn't fight and die to protect regulated rights — they fought to preserve unalienable ones. They knew that a government that controls the arms of the people controls the people themselves. That is why the Second Amendment was written in the imperative: "shall not be infringed."

The question is not whether ghost-gun kits require tools or expertise. The question is whether the federal government has any constitutional authority whatsoever to restrict a citizen's right to make, own, or carry a weapon. The answer, as the Founders would have made clear with flintlock in hand, is absolutely not.

Patrick Henry declared, "The great object is that every man be armed…. Everyone who is able may have a gun." Today's Court has spit on that legacy.

Let this be a clarion call to patriots across these united (but fading) states: We cannot depend on the courts to defend our rights. It is time for the states to reassert their sovereignty, nullify unconstitutional federal overreach, and interpose on behalf of the people whose liberties are under constant assault.

To those who would still cling to the illusion that the courts are guardians of our freedom, I say: The Constitution is not self-enforcing. It lives only in the hearts of those willing to defend it — by education, by legislation, and when necessary, by nullification.

The federal beast will not stop itself. We must stop it. ■

BavarianWaste.com

12764 McCoy Fork Rd Walton, KY 41094 • (859) 485-4416

THE REVIEW

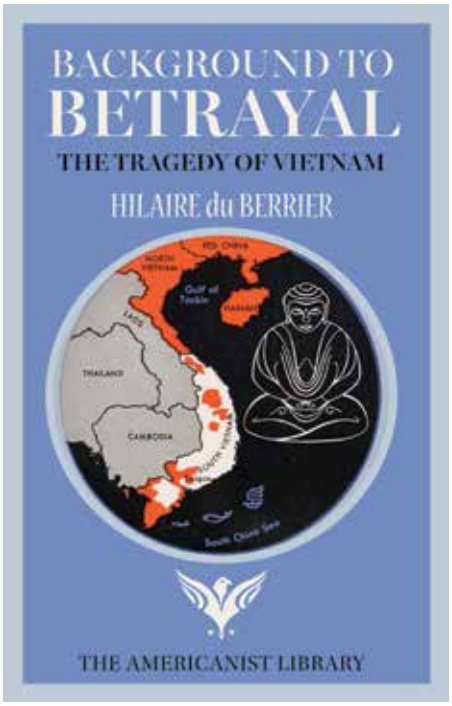
Betrayal and Tragedy

by William F. Jasper

***Background to Betrayal: The Tragedy of Vietnam*,** by Hilaire du Berrier, Appleton, Wisconsin: Western Islands, 1965, new edition 2025, 380 pages, paperback. (To order the book, see ad on page 43.)

Before there was George Floyd and the worldwide Black Lives Matter "mostly peaceful" protests (that turned into deadly riots and city-destroying conflagrations), there was the Vietnam War. Before the massive rallies against climate change and white privilege, and the demonstrations of radical militants over the Israel-Hamas Gaza War and LGBTQ "rights," there was Vietnam.

The recent campus occupations and confrontations at Columbia, Harvard, and other institutions are a replay of the clashes we saw at the same schools in the 1960s and 1970s. What's more, we see the same cast of characters, ranging from the Marxist-Leninists to the globalists stirring the same phony "right vs. left" turmoil. The violent, pro-communist Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) and Black Panther Party have regrouped. They may be only shadows of their former selves, but they are hugely augmented by hundreds of old and new NGOs, political parties, and coalitions such as the Party for Socialism and Liberation, ANSWER (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism) Coalition, Liberation Road, Communist Party USA, Workers World Party, Democratic Socialists of America, Black Lives Matter, and Students for Justice in Palestine.



Today, as during the Vietnam War, we also see the Establishment globalists, the American shadow government — what is now widely referred to as the Deep State — playing the same deceitful role of sowing confusion and chaos by financing both sides of conflicts and strategically flip-flopping at critical junctures to support the communist Left while pretending to be anti-communist. The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), the International Rescue Committee (IRC), the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Department of State, the Central Intelligence Agency, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, and the Ford, Rockefeller, and Carnegie Foundations were (and remain) critical players in this subterfuge. Not only did this unified globalist choir *openly* support communist leader Ho Chi Minh's takeover of what became North Vietnam, but they continued later to support him more or less covertly in a multitude of ways while pretending to support the anti-communist forces of South Vietnam.

The Vietnam War was a transformational event in American history politically, socially, culturally, psychologically, morally, and spiritually. For more than half a century we have been suffering the aftershocks of that seismic phenomenon. Now, with the 50th anniversary of the Fall of Saigon (April 30, 1975) a flood of media propaganda and disinformation aims to further reinforce the deadly myths and lies about that conflict that were foisted on America and the world decades ago.

To make sense of the twisted, intentionally obscured chain of events and the duplicitous personages of that complex era, it is essential to have a knowledgeable, reliable guide. The late Hilaire du Berrier (1906-2002) is that indispensable man, and this work, *Background to Betrayal*, is the essential guidebook to the treachery and treason that condemned more than 58,000 American servicemen to die in Vietnam — along with millions of

Vietnamese, Cambodians, and Laotians — and consigned millions more to slavery in the communist prison states of Asia. Unlike many of the other so-called experts on Vietnam — whether journalists, professors, or former U.S. officials — Hilaire du Berrier was intimately familiar with the complex history, culture, politics, and terrain of Vietnam and Southeast Asia. He was also deeply connected to Vietnamese and French sources in Indochina and spoke Vietnamese and French (as well as Arabic, Cambodian, Chinese, English, German, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Russian, Sioux Indian, and Turkish).

Hilaire du Berrier

The New American

A barnstorming pilot and daredevil stuntman from the era of biplanes, du Berrier (born Harold Berrier) was a 20th-century adventurer and freedom fighter of the first order. Despite his French name and the fact that he lived much of his life in France and the French Principality of Monaco, he was an American citizen, born in North Dakota. In the 1930s, he was a pilot/journalist in both the Italian-Ethiopian War and the Spanish Civil War. He escaped imprisonment by the Italian fascists in Ethiopia and a communist firing squad in Spain. He went to Vietnam in 1937 and from there on to China, where he became the central figure in the famous "Reseau Mingant" (Mingant Network), the French-led Allied spy network under Colonel Marcel Mingant that proved to be such a thorn in the side of the Japanese occupying forces of World War II. Du Berrier was captured by the Japanese secret police and brutally tortured, but they failed to break him — which was fortunate, since, because of his multilingual capabilities, he was the conduit through which much of the network's intelligence flowed.

Mingant expressed the most profound respect for du Berrier. "In spite of grave suffering; and the torture to which he was submitted," Colonel Mingant later wrote, "Mr. du Berrier never pronounced a name." "He suffered a veritable martyrdom in the Japanese prison without ever revealing the organization for which he had worked so hard, willingly," said Mingant, and "by his courage, his intelligence, and his disregard for danger, he saved many." Among those whom Mingant credits du Berrier with indirectly saving were American aviators who had crash-landed or bailed out over China and Indo-China. It was often a neck-and-neck race to rescue them before the Japanese captured them. Mingant received the American Freedom Medal for rescuing American flyers and attested that he thought it "scandalous" that the U.S. government not only failed to recognize du Berrier's heroic efforts, but antagonists within the U.S. State Department actually penalized him. How did they penalize him? After his release from the Japanese prison, they demanded that he pay for the food that the United States had given to the Japanese for American prisoners of war, even though du Berrier had not received it. It was a kick in the gut to a valiant war hero who was penniless and in need of rest and medical care. To make matters worse, they refused to restore his American passport and badmouthed him, making it almost impossible for him to find work as a journalist among the American and European press in China and Vietnam. He had previously written for *Newsweek* and various international news agencies. But now those avenues were closed to him. (Colonel Mingant and other French military heroes continued fighting for years to gain recognition for du Berrier. In 1999, their long efforts finally bore modest fruit; the French government recognized some of du Berrier's achievements and awarded him a small pension. The traitors in our government, on the other hand, continued to try to "disappear" him down the Orwellian memory hole.)

Thus the burning question: *Why* would the U.S. State Department do such a thing? *Why indeed?* Well, for those familiar with the State Department's notorious activities on behalf of the communists in China and Indochina during World War II and the postwar period, the answer is obvious. Hilaire du Berrier recognized early on that the communists were mortal enemies of mankind and all that is good and sacred. He refused to buy what the communists and pro-communists in the State Department and the media were selling, i.e., that the Red Armies of Mao Zedong and Ho Chi Minh were the saviors of Asia. This was the era in which the administrations of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry Truman were revealed to be liberally peppered with Soviet agents: Alger Hiss, Harold Ware, Harry Dexter White, John Abt, Lee Pressman, Solomon Adler, Virginius Frank Coe, Victor Perlo, Lauchlin Currie, John Carter Vincent, John Stewart Service, Owen Lattimore, Nathan Gregory Silvermaster, Harold Glasser, and many more. These enemy agents were appointed, promoted, and protected by globalists at the highest levels of our government. At the State Department, which was one of the most critical centers of subversion and the crucial department for the betrayal of China, that meant advancement and protection by Secretaries of State Edward R. Stettinius, George C. Marshall, and Dean G. Acheson. In the subsequent "Republican" Eisenhower administration (1953-1961), the top slot at State was held by John Foster Dulles and Christian Herter. With the sensational Rosenberg atomic spy trial and the Senate and House investigations of Soviet penetration of the federal government ongoing, Dulles and Herter posed as strident anti-communists, but they continued the betrayal of Asia to the communists. You see, as we have pointed out in these pages many times (for example, the June 7, 2021 article "CFR: Still the Power Behind the Throne," which includes a fold-out chart showing the steadily increasing grip of the CFR on successive Republican and Democratic administrations from Herbert Hoover in 1929 to Joe Biden) the CFR globalists (or "one-worlders," as they were formerly called) have been striving assiduously for more than a century to destroy our American republic and transform

us into a mere cog in their centrally controlled, communist-styled world government. All the aforementioned secretaries of state, with the exception of Marshall, were CFR members, as were many of their underlings. Although not a formal member, Marshall was completely in tune with the Council's support for communist butchers Mao Zedong and Ho Chi Minh, while simultaneously defaming and holding a maniacal hatred for our anti-communist allies Chiang Kai-shek and Emperor Bao Dai. Less than five years after World War II, and only a year after installing Mao as ruler of China, our new Chinese communist "allies" were swarming into Korea, bringing about the Korean War (1950-1953), with some 34,000 U.S. battle deaths. Then, within months, it was on to Vietnam — and more colossal betrayals.

Hilaire du Berrier's unique knowledge and perspective is especially crucial to understanding the intricate intrigues that laid the foundation for the ultimate triumph of communism in Vietnam and our orchestrated "defeat" at the hands of Ho Chi Minh's (Soviet-and-Chinese-backed) Viet Cong.

The scale and hubris of the treachery and deception by the key players on "our" side is mind-boggling. Du Berrier was there, watching the betrayals unfold in real time. Having already turned over China and half of Korea to the communists, the CFR brain trust turned to destroying what was then called French Indochina (modern-day Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia). The U.S. globalists pretended now to be alarmed about communism, but, curiously, always seemed to adopt the communist line while attacking genuinely pro-American anti-communist Asian leaders and promoting ineffective or faux "anti-communist" leaders whom they would later dispose of when their usefulness had expired.

Regarding Indochina, that meant adopting the Stalinist Moscow line of communist advancement under the banner of "anti-colonialism." The communists were all about colonialism, of course, as long as it was iron-fisted *Soviet* colonialism, as their post-World War II record of gobbling up countries unequivocally demonstrated. So, the CFR "Wise Men," as their sycophant media choir called them, joined Moscow in attacking the French dominion in Southeast Asia.

Among the torrent of books and articles that have been written on Vietnam, *Background to Betrayal* stands alone, as far as this reviewer is aware, in showing the perfidy of U.S. leaders in the early 1950s betraying our French and Vietnamese allies long before the same U.S. leaders' perfidious betrayal of our military in Vietnam began a decade later. Take, for example, the crucial 1954 Battle of Dien Bien Phu. During the months in which the vastly outnumbered French troops heroically withstood the siege by "Uncle Ho's" communist forces, John Foster Dulles (a CFR founder) and his CFR cabal at State strung along the government of conservative French Prime Minster Joseph Laniel with equivocal indications that U.S. military support was forthcoming. It was a cruel ruse; no U.S. aid was ever intended.

The fall of Dien Bien Phu to the communists on May 7, 1954, was a calamitous event, dealing a crushing blow to France and causing the Laniel government to collapse five weeks later. Laniel was replaced by Pierre Mendès-France, leader of the Radical-Socialist Party. For the globalists, this was a twofer: advance the communists in Asia, advance the socialists in Europe.

Mendès-France performed as expected. He agreed to the treaty that gave Ho Chi Minh and the communists all of Vietnam above the 17th parallel, thus setting up the future conflict known to Americans as the Vietnam War.

What then? Having displaced the French, the CFR cabal and its media auxiliaries went to work tearing to shreds all of the native Vietnamese forces that posed a bulwark against the communist conquest of the rest of Indochina. That meant first destroying Emperor Bao Dai, who was

Viet Minh troops planting their flag over the captured French headquarters at Dien Bien Phu, 1954.

Public Domain

Hilaire du Berrier's unique knowledge and perspective is especially crucial to understanding the intricate intrigues that laid the foundation for the ultimate triumph of communism in Vietnam and our orchestrated "defeat" at the hands of Ho Chi Minh's (Soviet-and-Chinese-backed) Viet Cong.

U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Secretary of State John Foster Dulles (from left) greet South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem at Washington National Airport.

Public Domain

widely revered throughout Vietnam. It also meant destroying the Cao Dai and Hoa Hao religious sects, which commanded substantial armies, as well as Le Van Vien (also known as Bai Vien), an ex-pirate and fierce anti-communist who supported the emperor and had a sizable army. Finally, there was the large Catholic population of Vietnamese, who formed another anti-communist base. All of these disparate anti-communist forces had to be smeared, defamed, and turned against one another to prevent unified opposition to the coming communist onslaught.

Du Berrier walks us through this convoluted web of trickery and deceit, revealing the American officials, their media accomplices, and their Vietnamese stooges who carried out the betrayal of Vietnam. Prominent among the Americans: Ambassadors Henry Cabot Lodge (CFR) and Angier Biuddle Duke (CFR), CIA operative Edward Lansdale, Senators Mike Mansfield and Hubert Humphrey (CFR), CFR Chairmen John J. McCloy and David Rockefeller, Secretary of State Dean Rusk (CFR), syndicated columnist Joseph Alsop (CFR and covert CIA operative), AFL-CIO "roving ambassador" Irving Brown (CFR), Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Maxwell D. Taylor (CFR), CIA Director Allen Dulles (CFR), and many more.

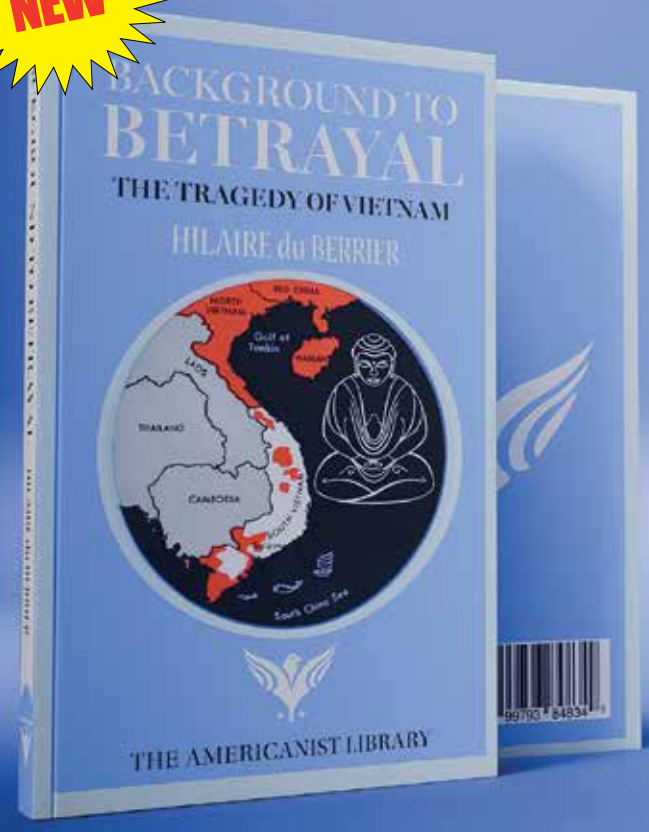
Incredibly, the same American forces in government, academia, the media, and the big tax-exempt foundations that had only a few years before rallied behind Mao and Ho, referring to them as "agrarian reformers" and comparing them to George Washington and America's Founding Fathers, now insisted that we trust them in picking the man who would oppose their erstwhile champions.

And whom did they choose? Ngo Dinh Diem. Why? Because he and his family could be manipulated and his status as a Catholic (nominally, along the lines of Joe Biden and Nancy Pelosi) could be exploited to create, or exacerbate, religious division in the country. Thus, a massive CFR/CIA media and lobbying operation began to sell Diem to America, with Catholics particularly targeted to support his regime. An important element of this propaganda campaign involved neutralizing genuine Catholic anti-communists, such as Empress Nam Phuong (Catholic wife of Emperor Bao Dai) and the popular Nguyen Ton Hoan, leader of the Dai Viet Party, the largest and best-established anti-communist, nationalist party in Vietnam.

Du Berrier gives much-deserved attention to Albert Pham Ngoc Thao, who became head of the credit office for American aid and intelligence chief for Diem's brother, Ngo Dinh Nhu. This is more than passing strange, since a few years before he was the intelligence chief for Ho Chi Minh's *communist* intelligence service and his father, Pham Ngoc Thuan, was head of Ho's Vietminh League in Paris. Forces in our government kept this hidden from the American people. Historians now recognize that Thao was a deep mole inside the Diem government, but at the time when it counted most, du Berrier was virtually alone in pointing out these and other inconvenient truths. After Diem's usefulness was over, the CIA arranged his assassination, making way for the communist victory.

Thankfully, after being out of print for many years, *Background to Betrayal* is now available again. Get a copy. Read it and share it. We are fighting the same Deep State that betrayed us and all of the people of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia 50 years ago. ■

NEW



NEW PRODUCT!

In *Background to Betrayal*, Hilaire du Berrier exposes how the U.S. insiders paved the way for the Communist conquest of Southeast Asia. As an eyewitness to the betrayal of our allies in Vietnam, du Berrier reveals how State Department globalists sabotaged anti-Communist efforts — and why thousands of American lives were lost because of it.

PRE-ORDER
YOURS NOW!

Shop JBS.org

Vietnam: 50 Years Later
American POWs left behind in Vietnam died there, and now Vietnam collects U.S. foreign and military aid.
(April 28, 2025) TNA250428

Spread THE Word

CHECK OUT OUR OTHER ISSUES!

The Future of Money: The Fed, Big Banks, and Bitcoin

The banking elites who've long wanted to control money and credit succeeded when they created the Fed in 1913. They claimed it would benefit the little guy — but it was a scam. **(April 14, 2025) TNA250414**

President or King?

Prior presidents are applauded by the liberal media for ramping up the regulatory state. But Trump is called a dictator for attempting to rein it in. What's the truth? **(March 24, 2025) TNA250324**

Engineering the Price of Food

Malthusian globalists, starved for power, have weaponized famine under the banner of "sustainable development," the modern repackaging of an age-old tyrants' trick. **(March 10, 2025) TNA250310**

Trump Takes Action

In a series of executive orders signed over the first few days of his second term in office, President Trump delivered on almost every promise he made to the American people. **(February 24, 2025) TNA250224**

Trump's Top Staff Picks: Will They Carry the MAGA Agenda?

Many Americans have high hopes for Trump's second term, but will his Cabinet live up to those expectations? Here we look at some of his picks for key positions. **(February 10, 2025) TNA250210**

Order Online

Order Online: www.ShopJBS.org or call 1-800-342-6491

250428

THE LAST WORD

Get US Out!

of the UN (and NATO, too)

by Peter Rykowski

Adobe Stock/Road Red Runner

In an important step toward restoring American independence from an emerging world-government system, legislation to fully withdraw the United States from the United Nations has been reintroduced in Congress.

In late February, Representative Chip Roy (R-Texas) and Senator Mike Lee (R-Utah) introduced H.R. 1498 and S. 669, titled the Disengaging Entirely From the United Nations Debacle (DEFUND) Act of 2025.

H.R. 1498 is co-sponsored by Representatives Josh Brecheen (R-Okla.), Elijah Crane (R-Ariz.), Virginia Foxx (R-N.C.), Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.), Harriet Hageman (R-Wyo.), Diana Harshbarger (R-Tenn.), Anna Paulina Luna (R-Fla.), Thomas Massie (R-Ky.), Burgess Owens (R-Utah), Mike Rogers (R-Ala.), and Michael Rulli (R-Ohio). S. 669 is co-sponsored by Senators Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) and Rick Scott (R-Fla.).

These bills, which are identical, would:

- Repeal the United Nations Participation Act of 1945, which established U.S. membership in the UN;
- Repeal the United Nations Headquarters Agreement Act, thus evicting the UN from its headquarters in New York City;
- Prohibit any U.S. funding for the UN and its affiliated organizations;
- Prohibit U.S. participation in UN peacekeeping operations;
- Revoke diplomatic immunity for UN entities and employees;
- Rescind U.S. membership in the World Health Organization (WHO);
- End participation "in any conventions and agreements with the United Nations" and its affiliates; and
- Prohibit the U.S. president from unilaterally entering into agreements with the UN or its affiliates.

In a press release announcing the legislation, Roy declared, "The UN doesn't deserve one single dime of American taxpayer money or one bit of our support; we should defund it and leave immediately."

This legislation comes at a critical time. With President Donald Trump in the White House and a Congress with an increasing number of members who consistently follow the Constitution, these bills have the best opportunity in decades of passing. Although Trump has already signed executive actions to withdraw the United States from the WHO, UN Human Rights Council, and Paris Agreement, and to review U.S. membership in other UN agencies, H.R. 1498 and S. 669 would go much further — and prevent a future president from unilaterally rejoining them. At a time when American independence is under siege, Congress has an excellent opportunity to act.

Support for leaving the UN and NATO — a "regional arrangement" of the UN — is growing. On March 1, Lee posted on X, "Get us out of NATO." Massie reposted Lee's message, writing, "NATO is a Cold War relic that needs to be relegated to a talking kiosk at the Smithsonian," and two days later Luna made her own post calling for U.S. withdrawal from NATO. Most amazingly, around the same time, Elon Musk responded to another X post declaring that "it's time to leave NATO and the UN" with two words: "I agree." Within two days, Musk's reply gained nearly 90 million views. Will this be enough to influence Trump to get us out? Time will tell, but it is encouraging to see members of the highest echelons of our government advocate the same position The John Birch Society has advocated for more than a half-century.

Rather than remain a member of — and provide billions of dollars in funding to — an organization that regularly attacks the United States and its system of government, American leaders must restore U.S. sovereignty and defend what the Founding Fathers worked to establish. And it's up to ordinary citizens — through building an educated electorate — to ensure that our leaders uncompromisingly defend our Republic and God-given freedoms. ■

Family Owned & Operated Since 1972

Clark's NUTRITION ® & Natural Foods Market

What does "family owned & operated" really mean? For the Clark family, it means getting up early for 45 years to work in their own community, and choosing to invest in the Inland Empire. In a time when Wall Street is trying to run Main Street, Clark's Nutrition still believes that family-owned and operated businesses are the backbone of the American dream, and feels privileged to help families live healthier and happier lives.

Selection - Staff - Experience - Affordability

SELECTION
Clark's has the largest selection of organic produce and supplements in the Inland Empire.

NUTRITIONAL CONSULTANTS
We have trained Nutritional Consultants to help assist you with whatever your health goals are. They're not on commission, and are here to help you "Live Better!"

WE ARE EXCITED TO MEET YOU! It is our company mission to provide customers with nutritional assistance that can really have a lasting impact on their quality of life. We look forward to meeting and serving you!

AFFORDABLE
Clark's goes to great lengths to make sure your family has what they need at an affordable price.

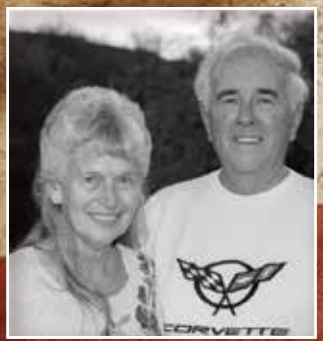
STORE TOURS
Come by any time and we will be glad to give you a personal tour and answer any of your questions.

CHINO
909.993.9200
12835 Mountain Ave.
Chino, CA 91710

LOMA LINDA
909.478.7714
11235 Mountain View Ave.
Loma Linda, CA 92354

RIVERSIDE
951.686.4757
4225 Market St.
Riverside, CA 92501

RANCHO MIRAGE
760.324.4626
34175 Monterey Ave.
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270



www.clarksnutrition.com

Ray & Carol Clark

THE ONYX COLLECTION

Elegance for your bath

Showers & Lavatories

The Onyx Collection manufactures showers and lavatories in Belvue, KS.

We have over 5,000 active dealers throughout the United States that sell and install our products.

Quality products, unique designs, our guarantee, and ease of installation have made us legends in this industry.

Call us at: (800) 669-9867

Yes! Guaranteed Forever

Proudly Made in Kansas, USA

105 Broadway St. Belvue, KS 66407 (phone) 800-669-9867 (fax) 800-393-6699
www.onyxcollection.com